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Palestinian Affairs

Abu-Sharif on 'Frontline' States Coordination

JN0310082491 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 3 Oct 91 pp 1, 16

[Text] Tunis—Bassam Abu-Sharif, political adviser to Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat, has said: The results of the Palestine National Council session concerning the political issues have settled the PLO's general course without any ambiguity. The results, he added, showed that the overwhelming majority stress participation in the peace process despite the presence of an opposition, whose opinion is respected but not adopted.

In exclusive statements to AL-DUSTUR, Abu-Sharif said these results constitute a new starting point for the Palestinian struggle because they give the PLO the initiative once again and have canceled, to a great extent, the negative consequences of the Gulf war. Consequently, he added, it is important to continue the initiative on the basis of these results. The majority should not be satisfied with the positive results and the breakthrough it has achieved, but must also move quickly to keep the initiative with the PLO and continue to corner Shamir's government, he said.

Abu-Sharif added: The next subject on the agenda for the Palestinian political action is Palestinian representation and participation in the peace conference. These two issues require a swift political move and consultations with Jordan in particular, and with Egypt, Syria, and Lebanon in general. I mean here a quick move toward a serious, deep, and responsible discussion with Jordan to draft a working plan regarding the conference attendance, and continuing the Arab peace assault to deny Israel any room for maneuvering to gain time and achieve what Shamir wishes; namely, the formula of peace for peace, and not land for peace.

Abu-Sharif said: Convening a five-party summit for the Arab frontline states has now become a pressing need dictated by the nature of the period, especially since invitations to attend the conference will soon be extended to the five parties. It is necessary for the concerned Arab parties to go to that conference with a common perception and a unified stand. It is also necessary for that summit to be attended by the secretaries general of the Gulf Cooperation Council and the Arab Maghreb Union in order to agree on a unified Arab strategy of action in the peace conference and joint Arab involvement in the ongoing political conflict in Washington between President Bush and Israel's supporters in the U.S. Congress.

He pointed out that the five-party summit will mark the hopeful beginning preparing for the comprehensive Arab summit that will try to heal the rift, which the Arab League has been suffering since the Gulf crisis, repair the foundations of Arab solidarity, and restore inter-Arab relations to normal. He said the Arab summit can then set a comprehensive strategy for cooperation over a number of issues, headed by confronting the growing Israeli intransigence (which will increase even further in the next phase), Arab economic cooperation and integration, and strengthening the status and role of the Arab group in a changing and renewable world order, as well as ending the Iraqi people's ordeal resulting from the continued economic blockade.

Lastly, Abu-Sharif said: One should not exaggerate the battle which the U.S. Government is fighting against Israel's supporters, the Zionist lobby in the Congress, and the institutions and societies that press for supporting Israel and its expansionist plans. Neither should one underestimate this battle. Arab states are now aware of the size of the Zionist lobby, and Arabs must use this battle to support President Bush in his fight to apply international legitimacy on the Arab-Israeli conflict in the Middle East.

Hamas Leader on Rejection of PNC Decision

JN0310063691 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 3-4 Oct 91 pp 1,5

[By JORDAN TIMES staff reporter Maryam M. Shahin]

[Text] Amman—The decision of the Palestine National Council (PNC) last week to approve Palestinian participation in a U.S.-brokered Middle East peace conference was condemned Wednesday by a Muslim fundamentalist organisation as a decision that does injustice to the Palestinian people since the proposed talks offer a "liquidation" of the Palestinian issue rather than a settlement of it.

Spokesman of the Islamic resistance movement Hamas Ibrahim Ghawshah said Wednesday that the attendance of a Palestinian and/or Arab delegation at the proposed peace conference, scheduled to take place by the end of October, is bound to end in failure.

During his first-ever press conference in Jordan, Mr. Ghawshah defended his group's position in refusing to attend the PNC meeting. He attacked the PNC's stand and said that the territories conceivably up for concessions at the peace talks would amount to no more than eight per cent of the Palestine that existed during the British mandate.

"The West Bank and Gaza, which the Americans, not the Israelis, want to discuss, constitute 22 per cent of Palestine," Mr. Ghawshah told reporters. "Of this 22 per cent, two thirds are already settled by Israelis. So what's left to negotiate?"

Hamas claims that up to 40 per cent of the people in the occupied West Bank and Gaza support its ideals of an Islamic state in all of pre-1948 Palestine. This ideal state, according to Hamas, will be a non-racist and sectarian state where Muslims, Christians and Jews would live in accordance with Islamic law.

While the group claims such a wide support and launches strong verbal attacks on the PLO, Mr. Ghawshah ruled out that Hamas was offering itself as an alternative Palestinian leadership to the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). According to Mr. Ghawshah, the PLO had taken the wrong route in its attempts to liberate occupied Palestinian lands.

Asked why Hamas had not tried to alter the outcome of the PNC conference in Algiers by attending the meeting and objecting through a democratic process, Mr. Ghawshah said Hamas had refused to participate at the PNC under the PLO umbrella because "there was no proportional representation."

Hamas was offered a "take it or leave it" number of seats in the 450-member PNC, Mr. Ghawshah said.

"We were offered 18 seats, or four per cent. Yet, we represent up to 40 per cent of the Palestinian people. We cannot participate under such unrepresentative conditions," he said.

"At a time when much of the world is turning to democracy it is unacceptable that the Palestinian leadership remains backward and undemocratic," Mr. Ghawshah said. "The fact of the matter is that we represent a large proportion of the Palestinian people and the PLO must recognise that fact and give us our due."

Mr. Ghawshah asserted that the proposed peace conference will suggest autonomy for the Palestinian people, but is actually intended to exclude the possibility that Palestinians will have territorial rights.

"The Palestinians are being asked to participate in a regional conference that imposes on them the notion that while they will have self-rule, they will have no territorial rights," he said.

"We cannot and will not bow to such schemes of self-liquidation," he declared.

Hamas categorically refuses any negotiation over Jerusalem, the third holiest city in Islam. "Jerusalem is not up for negotiations," said Mr. Ghawshah.

He warned the PLO that "the liberation of Palestine is and must remain the aim of the Palestinian people and the Palestinian leadership cannot close its doors to the inalienable rights of its people to pursue that goal."

Mr. Ghawshah said that the PLO had started off on the wrong foot when it agreed to accept Israel's right to exist at a PNC session in Algiers in 1988. "The PNC stand to recognise, and thus accept, the Israeli control over Palestinian territory was a drastic mistake, which we condemned then and condemn now."

The proposed peace conference, Mr. Ghawshah said, aimed at establishing separate peace treaties between Israel and different Arab countries and this goal confirmed Hamas' suspicions that the U.S. and Israel had no intention of solving the Palestinian issue.

Five hundred members of Hamas, which means zeal in Arabic, have given their lives during the almost four-year-old uprising and 5,000 of its members are in Israeli jails for intifada-related actions, according to the organisation.

PFLP Denies Report of Habash Resignation

JN0210142991 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1400 GMT 2 Oct 91

[Text] In Damascus, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] has denied a report published in a United Arab Emirates [UAE] newspaper [not further identified] today that PFLP Secretary General George Habash has resigned his post.

Egypt

Information Minister Views Mubarak-Fahd Talks

NC0310093191 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0812 GMT 3 Oct 91

[Text] Jeddah, 3 Oct (MENA)—Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif has stated that, during their meeting following a banquet last night, leaders Husni Mubarak and King Fahd discussed regional issues, international contacts aimed at achieving a just and comprehensive solution to the region's issues, and the efforts to hold a peace conference. They also exchanged views on international changes and developments and their impact on regional issues.

Al-Sharif said the two leaders stressed the promotion of coordination and cooperation for the sake of joint Arab action based on awareness and perception of the challenges facing the Arab and Islamic nations and the two countries' responsibility for preserving Arab security in its broadest sense.

Al-Sharif said President Mubarak had briefed his brother the custodian of the two holy mosques on the outcome of his visit to the Soviet Union. He added that the meeting between the two leaders, which took place after an expanded meeting attended by the Egyptian and Saudi delegations last night, lasted two and a half hours.

Al-Sharif said that in the meantime, ministers accompanying President Mubarak and their Saudi counterparts discussed a number of issues and joint projects within the context of President Mubarak and King Fahd's directives and the resolutions passed by the two countries' joint higher committee.

Al-Sharif met with Saudi Information Minister 'Ali al-Sha'r. Also, Dr. 'Atif 'Ubayd, minister of cabinet affairs and minister of state for administrative development, and Finance Minister Dr. Ahmad al-Razzaz met with Saudi Minister of Finance and National Economy Muhammad Aba-al-Khayl and other Saudi officials.

U.S. Plans Reportedly Led Prince To Resign

NC0210212891 Cairo MISR AL-FATAH in Arabic 30 Sep 91 p 1

[Editorial by Chief Editor Mustafa Bakri: "The Resignation of the Prince"]

[Text] Prince Khalid Bin-Sultan, commander of the Arab forces during the Gulf war, has resigned. Of course, he did not resign to devote himself to business, as he announced. Those who observed the prince during and after the war understood that his ambition for power is unlimited. What happened then? What was the reason behind this sudden resignation or dismissal [iqalah]?

According to preliminary information, the United States' decision to send its forces back to the Gulf and to resume the war against Iraq have caused major differences within the Saudi family. Some have maintained that this will endanger Saudi security, while others have said that it will jeopardize Saudi interests abroad and increase the enmity between the Arab people and the ruling family. Still others are of the opinion that this will lead to instability in Saudi Arabia and will turn the country into a hotbed of tension and a permanent support base in the region.

I imagine that Prince Khalid realized the seriousness of the situation and understood its meaning when it was announced that U.S. Patriot missiles had arrived in the country accompanied by 1,500 U.S. troops. He warned of the consequences, but the deaf, conspiring ears paid him no heed.

What I want to conclude from all that has happened is that Khalid Bin-Sultan, who was among the first to stain his hands with Iraqi blood, has realized the full dimensions of the plot. He realized that the goal is to liquidate an entire people and end a nation's existence, exhaust its wealth, and destroy its strength in favor of Israel above all else.

I am not saying that the young general's conscience suddenly has been awakened, but he definitely has realized that the calamity is too great for any mind to absorb, and that those who take part in it will not escape judgment now or in the hereafter.

I have waited for two weeks, hoping to hear an Egyptian position that says no to what is happening. We were surprised by Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa's statement, which declared Egypt's support for the implementation of the UN Security Council resolutions. What Security Council is this, Your Excellency the Minister, and what resolutions are these that you are talking about? Please stop. Have mercy on Egypt and the Arab nation.

NDP Chief Meets Visiting Likud Delegation

NC0310112991 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1024 GMT 3 Oct 91

[Text] Cairo, 3 Oct (MENA)—Dr. Yusuf Wali, secretary general of the National Democratic Party [NDP], has met with the Israeli Likud Party delegation led by Likud parliamentary bloc leader Sara Doron, which is currently visiting Cairo. They reviewed the efforts to achieve peace in the Middle East.

Dr. Wali stressed the need to use the current opportunity to achieve peace and stability for the region's countries as a fundamental basis of launching socioeconomic development plans for the region's peoples. Efrayim Dowek, Israel's ambassador in Cairo, and Eliyahu Ben-Elisar, chairman of the Israeli Knesset's Foreign Relations Committee, attended the meeting.

Ghali Meets Group

NC0210160491 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 2 Oct 91

[Text] Dr. Butrus Ghali, deputy prime minister for foreign relations and minister of state for Egyptians abroad affairs, met today with a Likud delegation led by Sara Doron, chairperson of the Likud Knesset faction. They reviewed the current efforts to achieve a peaceful settlement of the Middle East crisis and to hold a peace conference. Ghali told the visiting delegation of the importance of making all possible efforts to surmount the obstacles preventing the peace conference from being held. He said that the final goal is to reach a comprehensive and just settlement which would guarantee the Palestinian people's legitimate rights and pointed out that this is the way to ensure peace and security in the Middle East.

Editorials Praise Bush Arms Reduction Initiative

NC3009133191 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0602 GMT 30 Sep 91

[Excerpt] Cairo, 30 Sep (MENA)—Editorials in Cairo newspapers today focus on U.S. President George Bush's initiative to reduce the U.S. nuclear arsenal. The papers stress the link between this initiative and the world's arms race and the issue of international peace and stability, foremost of which is the establishment of a just peace in the Middle East.

Under the headline "Bush's Initiative is a Historic Step," AL-JUMHURIYAH points to the Egyptian welcome and appreciation of the U.S. President's initiative and says this is especially significant in light of ongoing peace efforts in the Middle East.

The paper says that Bush's initiative is not only important in itself but has significant international repercussions because it will certainly invite similar measures by other nuclear powers, particularly the USSR, Britain, and France.

To Arabs, this historic step will assume its full force when a just peace is actually established in our region and weapons of mass destruction, notably nuclear arms, are eliminated, the paper concludes.

AL-AKHBAR remarks that the extensive and positive reactions to President Bush's plan to unilaterally reduce the U.S. nuclear arsenal is a clear demonstration of the peaceful trend that prevails in the world today.

The paper points out that the post-Gulf War movement to revive the peace process which, for the first time ever, has been given a strong impetus by a U.S. President is part of the peaceful trend that has begun in various parts of the world and is making yesterday's enemies seek to eliminate everything that prevents peaceful coexistence among all parties.

In conclusion the paper urges the Israeli leaders to join the peace trend and move forward courageously to meet with the Arabs, who have not hesitated to make sincere steps to attain a real peace that will benefit all parties, instead of continuing to live on top of a gunpowder keg. [passage omitted]

'Plans' To Kill Scientists, Attack Iraq Noted

NC0210173991 Cairo MISR AL-FATAH in Arabic 30 Sep 91 pp 1,10

[Report by Mahmud Bakri]

[Excerpt] The United States has demanded that Iraq provide full information on the Egyptian, Iraqi, and Maghreb scientists who have contributed to building its nuclear capability. Specifically, the United States has required Iraq to submit personal files on each of these scientists' background and the role that they played in building Iraq's nuclear force.

High-level Arab political sources have told MISR AL-FATAH that Washington is asking for information on 150 scientists from Egypt, Iraq, and the Arab Maghreb countries. Washington has claimed that one of its agents leaked some information on these scientists, but has stressed that it needs more. Washington even threatened military action against Iraq if it did not comply with this condition.

The same sources added that Iraq had adamantly refused to sacrifice the Arab scientists who had helped build its nuclear capability, but it did express its willingness to provide full information about its nuclear research and capabilities, on which it fully cooperated with the UN Security Council resolutions. Iraq stressed its refusal to submit to this provocative demand, which goes beyond international norms and laws. The sources noted that Washington plans to use this information on the Arab scientists to track them through the Central Intelligence Agency and the Israeli Mosad with the goal of assassinating and liquidating them.

In its reply to the U.S. condition, Iraq affirmed the need to honor the promise of confidentiality that countries made to scientists to safeguard their lives, according to international norms and charters. Thomas Pickering, the U.S. envoy to the United Nations, has met with the current president of the UN Security Council and has claimed that the documents on the Iraqi and Arab scientists that Washington is insisting on obtaining include new sites of Iraqi nuclear and chemical weapons facilities. He added that Iraq resorted to recording these secret sites in the scientists' files so that they would not be inspected by the teams of experts searching for Iraqi nuclear and chemical weapons.

Meanwhile, reports have indicated that the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff last week gave President George Bush a draft U.S. military plan for action against Iraq in the event that military operations are approved. General Colin Powell, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, also

submitted a report in which he affirmed that the potential military operations would take one to two weeks at most and that the strategy would be much less complex than that followed in the Desert Storm Operation. He said the plan revolves around several points, which he specified as follows:

Attacking the Iraqi presidential offices and rest houses and other places frequented by President Saddam Husayn.

Attacking the Iraqi Defense Ministry and major Iraqi military units.

Attacking Iraqi nuclear and chemical installations, as specified in the international inspection teams' reports as well as other reports available to the United States on these facilities.

Providing security to the Gulf states by supplying them with Patriot missiles in anticipation of any Iraqi chemical attack against these countries.

The reports also indicated that the four-point plan gave details about the types and number of U.S. troops to be used in the operation as well as the aircraft to carry out each component of the plan. The plan allowed for the participation of international troops, but it did not mention using any Arab troops to attack Iraq. The Gulf states's troops are to be given the task of defending their countries. [passage omitted]

Kuwaiti Behavior, Lack of Arabism Criticized

NC3009163191 Cairo AKHBAR AL-YAWM in Arabic 28 Sep 91 p 5

[Article by Muhsin Muhammad: "Kuwait: Past and Present"]

[Excerpt] The Egyptian members of the Egyptian-Kuwaiti Friendship Society have begun to resign, a step which might lead to the society's dissolution. The Egyptian members are resigning because they have felt the friendship between Egypt and Kuwait recently has become just a nice hope that dissolved after Kuwait was liberated and the nightmare was ended with the withdrawal of Saddam Husayn and the Iraqi Army.

I do not believe that all the People's Assembly members normally read the details of the loan agreements that are submitted to the Assembly—but they were eager to read all the details of the Kuwaiti agreement in the hope of finding a paragraph praising Egypt or expressing some gratitude for Egypt's efforts. When the Assembly members were disappointed, they remembered what was said before the Iraqi invasion, when Kuwait insisted on declaring Egypt bankrupt because it failed to repay its debts.

What we have been hearing about how the Kuwaitis are treating the Egyptians could be true or it could be false, but it is a rumor that has been confirmed by information we have received. A huge Kuwaiti information delegation visited Egypt urging it to try to free the Kuwaiti prisoners in Baghdad at a time when we were calling for the liberation of Egyptians detained in Kuwait and for the liberation of funds and property belonging to Egyptians in Kuwait. The Egyptians have been trying in vain to travel to Kuwait to retrieve their property.

Immediately after the liberation of Kuwait, the Egyptians were told to show understanding toward Kuwait's situation and the experience it had just survived. This should be done—but Kuwait must also show understanding toward Egypt's situation. The Egyptian people can feel, however, that Kuwait is going another direction. There is the 10-year treaty with the United States. There is the Egyptian-Syrian-Kuwaiti agreement called the Damascus Declaration that is merely Arab cover for the presence of U.S. troops in Kuwait.

The Kuwaiti newspaper AL-SIYASAH, and I believe it expresses the feelings of Kuwait's Government and people, has published an article under the banner headline "Yes, the Kuwaitis are Isolationists." In this article, the writer said that the Kuwaitis have nothing to do with Arabism or Islam and suggested that the Arabs avoid discussing Arab and Islamic ties with the Kuwaitis, because, according to the writer, they are isolationists and do not want to have anything to do with anyone.

Kuwait is entitled to formulate its own policy and to conclude agreements over bases or facilities with any state and to call these agreements whatever it wishes—but the other states are also entitled to call the agreements on bases and protection by their real names. Kuwait suffered psychologically from the five months of Iraqi occupation. Kuwait must be freed from these effects, but what is currently taking place is truly regrettable. [passage omitted]

Loan Conditions Criticized

NC3009150791 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 27 Sep 91 p 1

[Jalal Duwaydar editorial: "A Position Expressing Disappointment"]

[Text] The People's Assembly members' expressed the anger and disappointment dominating Egyptian public opinion by objecting to the conditions attached to the loan Kuwait offered to the social fund. This position has caused more sadness for many Egyptians who were exposed to suffering and disasters related to the Kuwaiti catastrophe. Certain members of the People's Assembly described the loan conditions as unfair and harmful to Egypt's dignity. They called for rejecting the loan agreement, which was concluded primarily to help Egyptian youths confront unemployment—unemployment caused in part by the Egyptian economy's loss from the Kuwaiti war.

The discussions at the People's Assembly remind me of the period following the glorious October war and the

Egyptian forces' victory over the Israeli aggression. Certain Arab countries offered then President Anwar al-Sadat economic aid to confront the losses incurred while fighting for the victory that raised the status of the entire Arab nation. When the negotiations for this assistance began, President al-Sadat was surprised by the delegation that was led by the then Kuwaiti Finance Minister 'Abd-al-Rahman al-'Atiqi, which set conditions that were absolutely inappropriate, considering the occasion and the pan-Arab motives for offering the aid. The Kuwaiti delegation proposed aid in the form of a $2 billion loan guaranteed through international banks—not directly through Arab governments and development funds.

They resorted to these conditions so they could pressure Egypt—should it fail to pay the installments on time—and interfere in its domestic affairs if necessary. The expected outcome did indeed take place. When Egypt and the Arab states disagreed over the peace negotiations seeking to restore the occupied Arab land, these Arab countries tried to use Egypt's difficult economic circumstances to change its position. When the Egyptian leadership rejected this interference, threats were made to declare the country's bankruptcy. Had it not been for Egypt's firm stance, this behavior—which was inconsistent with the status and pan-Arab responsibilities that Egypt has had throughout history—would not have stopped. It is indeed strange that those in the Arab ranks who adopted this policy have forgotten that their position toward Egypt and its suffering after the October war—the war that raised the prestige of all Arabs—was one of the main reasons that encouraged late President Anwar al-Sadat to undertake the effort to reach an honorable peace agreement to restore his country's occupied land.

There is no doubt that special circumstances were behind this negative behavior toward Egypt. We can say, however, that Egypt's relations with certain Arab countries, primarily Saudi Arabia, have since taken a new and constructive course emphasizing appreciation and understanding of Egypt's role and historical responsibilities, and this was expressed in the message President Husni Mubarak sent to King Fahd, custodian of the two holy mosques, on the Saudi national day.

Proud Egypt will always extend its hand in love across the borders of the Arab nation and will work for cooperation with an open heart, but political stances should be in harmony with the Egyptian citizens' interests. This is the premise which has driven Egyptian media sources to issue warning about everything that affects Egyptian-Arab relations, particularly Egyptian-Kuwaiti relations. I would like to note that I still receive letters and calls from Egyptian workers in Kuwait, but they are decreasing in number, complaining that they have not received their end of service payments. I call on Kuwait's officials to show understanding and take into consideration the people's feelings by translating their statements of good will into quicker measures to give the Egyptian workers the payment they are due. Let them know that we are at the end of our patience due to the suffering and the difficult circumstances that are facing the victims of the catastrophe of Saddam's aggression against Kuwait.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Meets Yugoslav Journalists

LD3009170291 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1450 GMT 30 Sep 91

[Excerpts] Tripoli, 30 Sep (JANA)—Colonel Mu'mmar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the great 1 September revolution, has announced that all the capabilities of the Great Jamahiriyah would be put at the disposal of Yugoslav friends to remedy the situation and resolve their problems democratically. In a talk with a team of journalists from the warring Yugoslav republics, Col. Mu'mmar al-Qadhdhafi pointed out that thousands of Yugoslavs who live in the Great Jamahiryah have Yugoslav people's congresses there and voice their views. He stressed that there would be great benefit in cooperation between the two countries, which Yugslavia must not lose, and which it must take it into consideration. Col. Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi pointed out that any national conflict will inevitably lead to religious conflict, and that would be a tragedy and a serious deterioration. He said that before allowing any further deterioration, the situation must be dealt with through the jamahihiri solution via people's congresses and people's committees. "For the sake of peace in Yugoslavia, I have called for a jamahiri system and the establishment of a jamahiri federation in Yugoslavia." [passage omitted]

Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi declared that the method of dealing with the Yugoslav peoples with tanks and missiles is uncivilized and does not resolve anything, since this is an ethnic problem predicted by the Green Book 15 years ago. In his interview with the group of journalists from the Yugoslav republics, Col. Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi stated this is the era of the masses and the era of ethnic groups, in which every ethnic group wants to be independent. He added that the map of the world was drawn by ethnic conflicts. Col. Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi went on to say that the Green Book stresses that the states constituted by various ethnic groups will be torn apart by ethnic conflicts until every ethnic group becomes independent, and until the social factor inevitably triumphs over the political factor.

On behalf of the Great Jamahiriyah, in the name of the (?relationship) existing between the two countries, in the name of Tito's struggle for the sake of Yugoslavia, and proceeding from his internationalist responsibility and humanitarian values, Col. al-Qadhdhafi also urged that orders be given for an immediate cease-fire, with Yugoslavia's will, and that dialogue begin within the framework of a general conference. He also urged that the (warring factions) give up once and for all thinking that the use of force is suitable to subjugate ethnic groups. Col. al-Qadhdhafi added that as a faithful friend of Yugoslavia and in view of my internationalist duty, I

warn all the Yugoslavs of the dangers of the situation in Yugoslavia, which is encouraged by the Europeans and the Americans to set you one against the other in order to bring about Yugoslavia's collapse. Col. al-Qadhdhafi went on to say we are in pain every day when we watch television and see the explosions, the destruction, and the air raids, as if Hitler were attacking Yugoslavia, and we sometimes imagine we are in World War II. The leader of the great 1 September revolution then asked: Does this mean that all the Yugoslavs are mad? Is there not any government or conscience? How can this happen when the Yugoslavs are a mixture?

* Official Views Economic Involvement Abroad

91ES1110A Lisbon SEMANARIO ECONOMIA in Portuguese 31 Aug 91 pp 12-13

[Interview with Mohamed Toshani, representative of the Arab Foreign Investment Company, by J.E.B.; place and date not given: "Libya Wants Petrogal and Cement Firms"]

[Text] Lafico (Libyan Arab Foreign Investment Company) is another of those Arab companies which are suddenly appearing all over the world, swimming in petrodollars and ready to buy everything. Really everything. They once owned Agnelli's Fiat, and now they want Petrogal [Portuguese Petroleum Company], Cimpor [Cement Company of Portugal], and Secil [expansion unknown]. It is al-Qadhdhafi's money to do with as he pleases.

Libyan, a former basketball player who still loves the game, 44 years old, married and the father of three, Mohamed Toshani joined Lafico after spending several years working for other Libyan firms in the areas of trade and investment. He worked in Mauritania as manager of a mixed-capital fishing company, then went to Spain, "and the linguistic and geographic closeness of Portugal and Spain" brought him here. Is he satisfied? "I would like to make economic relations between Portugal and Libya more concrete, but...." But what is certain is that for Lafico, "there is no limit to investment in Portugal," and this man, an Arab, wants everything. To be more precise, nothing is ruled out—no investment. What is more, he has 600 million [contos] to spend. Basically, the question posed in those terms is simple: "we have money, and you have technology." So let's do business.

[J.E.B.] When you get right down to it, what is Lafico: the Libyan version of the KIO (Kuwait Investment Office) or the financial arm of Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi's political interests?

[Toshani] It is true that like the KIO, Lafico is a government investment firm with domestic capital—but Libyan capital—operating all over the world. The only exception is that Lafico has no interest in making any kind of investment in Libya. Only abroad. And when I say "abroad," I mean Africa, Europe, the Arab world, Latin America, and North America—in short, everywhere in the world.

[J.E.B.] And how much money does Lafico have available for investing in the world? Certainly many millions.

[Toshani] It started with $1.5 billion but currently has nearly $4 billion (600 million contos). Lafico began operating at the start of 1982.

[J.E.B.] And why did you choose Portugal? So you can enter the European Economic Community of 1993 more easily, or is it because Portugal offers guarantees to foreign investment—meaning, in this case, Libyan investment?

[Toshani] We were already in Europe before we entered Portugal.

[J.E.B.] Where?

[Toshani] We are in Italy, Germany, Great Britain, and Greece, and we have banking investments in France and Spain. So we are already in Europe. We did not come to Portugal because we wanted to enter Europe. Even Portugal is new to Europe.

[J.E.B.] New? There are certainly sectors that interest you here in Portugal. You chose us for some reason, did you not?

[Toshani] We came to Portugal like all business people in the world. Portugal is a European country and Mediterranean to boot. It is a country with a new pace of change and growth which I think is very important and of great interest. That is the reason.

[J.E.B.] But you arrived in Portugal by way of the Ilidio Monteiro construction firm.

[Toshani] I cannot say that the effort to bring us to Portugal had nothing to do with Ilidio Monteiro. Ilidio Monteiro can take credit for bringing us to Portugal.

[J.E.B.] Maybe that is why there is such insistent talk now about your buying into that construction company.

[Toshani] Two Libyan experts returned to Libya last Wednesday following a 17-day visit—a technical visit—during which they conducted a study of the Ilidio Monteiro firm. Two weeks before that, another representative of Lafico had been been here to conduct an economic study of the construction firm and submit a report. We are also in touch with the Espirito Santo Group concerning this matter. We are analyzing the problem in complete seriousness, but we have not yet reached the point of deciding whether to buy in or not. But I can say that we are willing. All the more since it is a very important Portuguese firm with a reputation in the market, although it is experiencing economic difficulties at the moment (perhaps because of the poor international situation faced by that sector). Basically, I hope we will be able to make a successful deal out of buying into Ilidio Monteiro.

Interest in Portugal

[J.E.B.] So the building industry is one of the areas that interests you. But you also have Secil, Cimpor, and Petrogal in your sights for the near future.

[Toshani] We are interested in everything. Not only in Portugal but throughout the world. Lafico's president, Mohamed Ali el-Huweij, was in Portugal on 25 July. He met with Minister of Industry Mira Amaral and also with the president of the republic, Mario Soares. They discussed Portugal, and I believe Lafico's president made it clear that we have a great interest in making that deal, as well as other deals in Portugal.

[J.E.B.] Are you going into those deals alone or in partnership with someone? You told me a little while ago that you were in touch with the Espirito Santo family.

[Toshani] We deal with the Espirito Santo Group only to the extent that it conducts economic studies for us: when we need to analyze this or that deal. Because after all, we are foreigners and we must work with firms which are well known in Portugal and which can give us all the necessary information.

[J.E.B.] What about the deal involving Grandella and Chiado?

[Toshani] Grandella, no, because I think it has already been sold to a Spanish group and another Portuguese group. But we are studying Chiado closely. The Espirito Santo Group has prepared the economic study for us, but we are still analyzing it. The company has to study it very carefully because it is a small investment, and Lafico has not yet decided whether it is an important deal and whether it interests us or not.

[J.E.B.] But beyond the prospect of your buying Ilidio Monteiro and possibly Chiado, you already own something in Portugal. In Santarem.

[Toshani] Yes. We spent 1.3 million contos to buy some land in Santarem from a firm called Procotur, in which we now own a 70-percent interest, and we are going to build a hotel and shopping center (including a bingo hall) at a total investment of 12 million contos at today's prices.

First Deal

[J.E.B.] With partners or...

[Toshani] Yes, with partners. The hotel is being built by the Scala Hotel, a firm in which we own a 36-percent interest and in which Ilidio Monteiro and Tivoli Hotels are also partners. We own 70 percent of Procotur—as I said before—and the remaining 30 percent belongs to Ilidio Monteiro. And we also have Polsa, which was the first firm....

[J.E.B.] Exactly what does Polsa do?

[Toshani] Polsa is an investment and trading company. That was the principle on which we established that firm. It was established to be the bridge between Portugal and the Arab world. The Arab world knows nothing about Portugal. That is the truth. And here is something that is very important and very interesting: the Arab world is familiar with almost all of Europe, it has information about all of Europe, and it has contacts with all of Europe, but very few with Portugal. That was why we thought about establishing Polsa, so that the two countries [as published] would know each other better. We are talking here about the market for trade and industry. And the Portuguese are not aware of the importance of the Arab market, either....

[J.E.B.] But what can the Arab market offer Portugal? And what can Portugal sell to the Arab market?

[Toshani] Portugal has many things to export to the Arab world.

[J.E.B.] For example?

[Toshani] Cloth, shoes, machinery, tomatoes, and olive oil. Products which Libya purchases all over Europe. And the Arab world has raw materials, petroleum,...

[J.E.B.] Is that why Lafico is interested in Petrogal?

[Toshani] Lafico is greatly interested in the Portuguese petroleum market. We are in touch with Portuguese government agencies for the purpose of determining whether we can participate in the process of privatizing Portuguese firms. Libyan experts and businessmen will visit Portugal next month to establish contacts in that area with Portuguese businessmen and experts in the same sector.

[J.E.B.] What about long-term investments?

[Toshani] All our investments are long term.

[J.E.B.] So you don't even think about the medium term?

[Toshani] No. We are not here in Portugal to buy today and sell tomorrow: buying a building today in order to sell it tomorrow is not our intention. Lafico's policy is not to earn money quickly. Our current presence in Portugal depends on the investments that can be thought about in the future.

[J.E.B.] Is that why you are interested in the Portuguese petroleum and cement industries?

[Toshani] Of course. Our firm is very interested in investing in those industries. In Europe we have already invested in those industries—for example, in Germany and Italy (Milan). We have firms set up specifically for those areas, and they can work not only alone but also in partnership with other domestic firms in the same sector. Examples of this are firms that we have in Milan, in Germany, and in Switzerland.

[J.E.B.] Have you already formed consortiums for those investments in petroleum and cement?

[Toshani] Not yet. The reason is that our bid for that sector was presented only one day after our president's meeting with the Portuguese minister of industry. It was not until 25 July that we informed the Portuguese Government of our interest in those companies.

[J.E.B.] Did the crisis in the Gulf affect Lafico's investments or strategy in Europe in any way?

[Toshani] The crisis in the Gulf had an influence on the entire world. So it influenced our company as well.

[J.E.B.] Yes, but during the crisis, did you ever consider abandoning or withdrawing Libyan investment abroad?

[Toshani] Never.

[J.E.B.] What about the European Single Market? Does it worry you? Is it possible that Libyan investment in Europe will suffer because of it?

[Toshani] No. Relations between Lafico and Europe may even improve. The Single Market is an excellent thing for Europe and for the development of its relations with the rest of the world, specifically the Arab nation.

Owners of Fiat

[J.E.B.] Do you currently have a majority interest in any large European firm? You once had such an interest in Fiat.

[Toshani] As a matter of fact, we once owned Fiat. Libya's shares in that company were held through Lafico.

[J.E.B.] And why did you sell your interest in Fiat?

[Toshani] At the time, the deal was presented to us merely as a commercial transaction.

[J.E.B.] Merely? Or was there political pressure? It was said that the shares were in Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi's name.

[Toshani] Yes. Merely a very important commercial transaction. It was considered the commercial transaction of the century.

[J.E.B.] What about banking? Are you interested, or are you looking only at the productive sector—at industry?

[Toshani] Lafico pays no attention to banking or the financial area. The reason is that there is another Libyan organization doing that. It is the Libyan Foreign Bank.

[J.E.B.] Is it in Portugal?

[Toshani] It once applied for authorization to operate in Portugal through a company formed with another Portuguese bank. Not at the moment. We have bank partnerships in Spain, France, Germany, and probably throughout West Europe.

[J.E.B.] You have been in Portugal for some time now. Which sectors would you advise an Arab investor to invest in?

[Toshani] The Portuguese market offers many possibilities. Tourism, general services, industry, agriculture, and real estate. [end of interview]

Al-Qadhdhafi's Investments

In December of last year, when the president of Lafico International and Libyan superminister for that country's investments abroad, Mohamed Ali El-Huwej, was in Portugal, there was nothing to indicate that the purpose of his visit was to study the privatization process affecting Portuguese industry. In fact, and although it is now known that al-Qadhdhafi's majority holdings in Fiat were held through Lafico and that the Libyans are present everywhere in the world with holdings in over 120 companies (whose activities range from petroleum to mining and include investment companies, trading firms, agricultural, tourist, real estate, construction, and insurance companies, and fishing and ocean shipping companies), it was merely thought that El-Huwej had come to Portugal to get acquainted with his most recent acquisition: a plot of land in Santarem that had been bought for 1.3 million contos by the Scala Hotel, a firm owned jointly by Polsa (a trading and investment firm set up by Lafico to operate in Portugal), Ilidio Monteiro, and Tivoli Hotels, a company owned by Antonio Machaz. Basically, it was just one more real estate project. There was nothing new about it: a total investment of 12 million contos to build a 100-room four-star hotel, a bingo hall, a shopping center, and 128 apartments for the middle and upper classes.

In fact, however, the president of Lafico had come to Portugal to study the investment opportunities available to him: Petrogal in the field of petroleum and Cimpor and Secil in the field of cement. He met with Neto da Silva, secretary of state for foreign trade; Elias da Costa, secretary of state for finance; and Pedro Almeida, president of the ICEP [Portuguese Foreign Trade Institute]. Ilidio Monteiro, owner of the construction firm of that name, was by Mohamed Ali El-Huwej's side at all times. Nothing transpired from those meetings. Nothing. "It was simply a formal presentation of greetings to Portuguese authorities" was the story at the time. Half a year later, the Libyan superminister returned to Portugal and met with Minister of Industry Mira Amaral and Mario Soares, president of the republic.

Although he did not say "I want Petrogal, Secil, and Cimpor," he might as well have. The Libyan superminister explained—this time clearly and in full detail—that he held an interest in over 120 companies around the world with a total investment in the neighborhood of 102 million contos. And in case that was not enough of a guarantee, he presented the operating statements of a company which had been formed in 1981 and which had written on the cover of that first report "First Annual Report" [in English]. A quick reading of that report leads

one to an even quicker conclusion: Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi has assets worth something in the neighborhood of 600 million contos available for investing abroad. That convinced Mira Amaral. And perhaps it also convinces those Portuguese investors who have already expressed an interest in Petrogal, Secil, and Cimpor: The Libyans have arrived.

Sudan

Rebel Garang Visits Israel, Discusses Arms

EA0210155591 Khartoum SUNA in English 1021 GMT 30 Sep 91

[Text] Khartoum, 30 Sep (SUNA)—The leader of the rebellion movement, John Garang, has visited Israel recently at the invitation of the Israeli defence minister. The Paris-based "AL-DAWALIA" magazine has reported that the rebel Garang has visited the Zionist state to discuss the rebels' request for arms. The rebel movement leader met during the visit with the Israeli prime minister, the magazine said. The magazine has also published a report on the recent split in the rebellion movement, describing it as dangerous and will lead to undesirable repercussions on the movement. The establishment of a separate state in southern Sudan will not be an easy task, the report said.

*Stiff Penalties Under New Firearms Law

92P40003A London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 20 Sep 91 p 4

[Text] AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT Khartoum bureau—Yesterday Sudanese President Lt. Gen. 'Umar al-Bashir signed into force an amendment to the Firearms and Munitions Law of 1991 that increases the penalty for trading weapons or maintaining a private weapons cache without an official license to no fewer than 10 years in prison, or execution in areas designated by the president. Likewise, there is a 10-year prison sentence for exporting weapons, a 10-year sentence for importing or exporting weapons to any other region, and a 10-year prison term plus fine for the importation of any prohibited device.

Actions causing the detonation of any explosives cache will be punished by imprisonment for a term of no fewer than 10 years. The importation of firearms without a permit, their conveyance, offloading, consignment, or removal from a private storehouse without permission, shall warrant a prison sentence of five years or more.

The amendment also prohibits the sale or disposal of weapons and sets a penalty for such up to seven years, plus a fine. Similarly, possessing or carrying a firearm without a permit shall be punished by imprisonment for no fewer than 10 years or by execution in areas designated by the president.

Darfur Governor Comments on Tribal Peace Accord

EA3009192591 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in English 1500 GMT 29 Sep 91

[Text] Most of the articles of the tribal peace agreement reached in July 1989 between the disputing parties in Darfur have been implemented, the wali [governor] of Darfur State said. In a statement to SUNA, Colonel Tayyib Ibrahim Muhammad Khayr said the implementation of the remaining articles is to be concluded next December. These articles were connected to the government's commitment in the field of development and [word indistinct] dispute's sides, he said.

He also spoke on the Darfur nafir—or mass effort—which aimed at the reformation of Darfur citizens in order to face the progress reforms [as heard]. More than 28 of the armed robbery elements have been arrested and others demanded amnesty. [sentence as heard] Fifteen thousand pieces of weapons have been collected and quantities of weapons in the hands of the tribes were estimated at 30,000 pieces, he said. Col. Khayr also touched on the outcome of his recent visit to Ouaddai Province as regards stability and promotion of neighborhood relations between Sudan and Chad.

Western Sahara

Government Appeals to UNSC on Peace Plan

LD0310103191 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 2 Oct 91

[Text] The Saharan Democratic Arab Republic Government is worried and concerned about the obstacles Morocco is continuously putting in the way of peace in Western Sahara.

A communique issued today by the Saharan Government in Bir El Hlou indicated that the regular policy of obstruction, which is gaining new dimensions with the flow of continuous waves of settlers to the occupied Saharan towns, is a clear expression, as the communique put it, of Morocco's deliberate will to destroy and undermine all the efforts aimed at implementing the UN peace plan.

In view of this situation, the Saharan Government addresses an urgent appeal to the UN Security Council and international public to intervene to put an end to the march [reference to influx of Moroccans into Western Sahara] and to force Morocco to submit to the will of the international community by respecting the stipulations and agenda of the peace plan.

Kuwait

Envoy To Egypt Reviews Ties, Loan Issue

PM0210101291 London SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI in Arabic 29 Sep 91 p 2

[Unattributed report: "Al-Kandari Tells Egyptian People's Assembly Speaker: Egypt's Dignity Part of Kuwait's Dignity, Interest on Loan Only 1.5 Percent!"]

[Text] Cairo, SAWT AL-KUWAYT—'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Kandari, the State of Kuwait's ambassador to the Arab Republic of Egypt, has emphasized the concern of the Kuwaiti amir, government, and people for the dignity of Egypt and of the fraternal Egyptian people. Following his meeting yesterday, Saturday, with People's Assembly Speaker Dr. Ahmad Fathi Surur, the ambassador said that officials in Kuwait regard the dignity of Egypt, its big sister, as part of Kuwait's dignity. Al-Kandari conveyed to the People's Assembly speaker Kuwait's thanks for and appreciation of Egypt's decisive, clear, and steadfast position on the restoration of right, and of the Egyptian political and military role in the liberation of Kuwait. He also conveyed the Kuwaiti National Council's greetings to the Egyptian People's Assembly.

On the subject of the Kuwaiti Fund loan, which was deferred by the Egyptian People's Assembly, Ambassador al-Kandari said the loan is 15th in the series provided by the Kuwaiti Fund to finance development projects in Egypt. He added that the terms of the loan are the easiest possible, since the grace period is 10 years and Egypt will pay the first installment in the year 2001.

With regard to the interest rate, al-Kandari emphasized that it is only 1.5 percent, in addition to 0.5 percent administrative expenses, contrary to Egyptian media reports that the interest rate is 10 percent.

In press statements following his meeting with Dr. Surur, al-Kandari said that the loan was discussed during the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait and before the liberation, and it was initialed on 23 February 1991. This is a clear sign that emphasizes Kuwait's appreciation of Egypt's role and Kuwait's eagerness to contribute—even with a small token, or symbolically—to lifting the burdens of our Egyptian brothers, who have been adversely affected by the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

Ambassador al-Kandari emphasized that there is no time limit on temporary visas granted to the Egyptians who were working in Kuwait before the Iraqi invasion in order to settle everything relating to their their apartments there or any other belongings. The term is open until these cases are completely settled. This is out of the Kuwaiti Government's commitment to protect all the Egyptians' rights.

The ambassador also said that, in addition to issuing 50 visas a day to these brothers, in accordance with what has been agreed with the competent Egyptian authorities, the embassy has issued some 4,000 (no objection) visas in a single week. Travel by such large numbers of people entails facilitating the issue of settling the savings and end-of-service dues.

He added that the condition that no Egyptian should travel to Kuwait except after obtaining an employment contract is intended to protect all Egyptians' dignity and interests so that they will not fall victim to ill-intentioned people and so that those traveling without employment contracts will not constitute a burden to themselves and to the Egyptian Embassy in Kuwait. Al-Kandari said that there are now in Kuwait some 90,000 Egyptians remaining from those who were there before the invasion, who numbered some 190,000. He emphasized that there are no obstacles or problems concerning the Egyptians' apartments, dues, or bank deposits. Even if visas are confined to the issue of accommodation, as reported, this does not at all prevent the traveler's access to his bank deposits or even from seeking a new employment contract during his stay in Kuwait.

Egyptians unable to travel to Kuwait can authorize an Egyptian bank or any other person to obtain his dues there.

Goods From 6 Pro-Iraq Countries Boycotted

LD0210121291 London KUNA in Arabic 1055 GMT 2 Oct 91

[Text] Kuwait, 2 Oct (KUNA)— The Kuwaiti paper 'AL-SIYASAH' reported today that sources said that the General Customs Office has issued a decision banning the clearing of all goods imported to Kuwait from the Arab countries that supported the Iraqi aggressors in their invasion of Kuwait. The paper said that, according to these sources, which it described as reliable, the countries included in the ban are Jordan, Yemen, Tunisia, Sudan, Algeria, and Mauritania. They said the decision also includes the non-acceptance of any certificate of origin for any goods issued from the embassies of these countries.

Recall that a great number of citizens have complained in the pages of local papers about the presence in local markets of commodities originating from the aforementioned countries. Apparently some traders have imported these goods from a third Arab country where a change of origin of the goods was made and consequently these goods were imported.

Saudi Arabia

Egypt's Mubarak Begins Visit to Jeddah

LD0210151191 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1430 GMT 2 Sep 91

[Text] His Excellency Muhammad Husni Mubarak, the president of the Arab Republic of Egypt, arrived in Jeddah at 1600 this afternoon for a visit to the Kingdom.

The custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, was at the reception of his excellency at King 'Abd-al-'Aziz International Airport. Also at the reception were His Highness Prince 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, crown prince, deputy prime minister, and commander of the National Guard.

Fahd, Mubarak Hold Talks

LD0210224291 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2134 GMT 2 Oct 91

[Text] Jeddah, 2 Oct (SPA)—King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the custodian of the two holy mosques, and his brother His Excellency Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak held a meeting this evening at the guest palace at al-Hamra [in Jeddah].

The meeting was attended on the Saudi side by His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, crown prince, deputy prime minister, and commander of the National Guard; His Royal Highness Prince Turki al-Faysal; His Excellency Ibrahim al-'Anqari, private adviser of the custodian of the two holy mosques; His Excellency Muhammad Aba-al-Khayl, minister of finance and national economy; His Excellency Dr. 'Abd-al- 'Aziz al-Khuwaytir, minister of education; His Excellency 'Ali al- Sha'ir, minister of information; and As'ad Abu-al-Nasr, the Kingdom's ambassador to the Arab Republic of Egypt.

Attending on the Egyptian side were His Excellency Muhammad Safwat al-Sharif, minister of information; His Excellency Dr. 'Atif 'Ubayd, minister for cabinet affairs and minister of state for administrative development; His Excellency Dr. Muhammad al-Razzaz, minister of finance; the head of the presidential office for political affairs; the first undersecretary at the Foreign Ministry and director of political affairs; and Sayyid Qasim al-Masri, Egyptian ambassador to the Kingdom.

Editorial Views President Bush's Arms Initiative

PM3009160991 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 29 Sep 91 p 15

[Editorial: "Significance of the Bush Initiative"]

[Text] U.S. President George Bush's initiative on reducing the U.S. nuclear arsenal is, in brief, the first real and practical indication of the new world order.

It is evidence of Washington's absolute confidence that the world as a whole will, in the foreseeable future, enter an era of peace, away from tension and the arms race, under the aegis of the sole world power, the United States. All things considered, the USSR is no longer a union, nor is it Soviet or socialist. Therefore, its threat as a world ideological superpower to the U.S. national entity and the Western capitalist system headed by the United States has disappeared.

Although some conservative circles in Washington and elsewhere are still expressing concern about the danger of the vacuum in Moscow and the continued existence of weapons of mass destruction in some of the Soviet republics which have broken away from the central government, President Bush's administration is now fully satisfied with its ability to keep the situation under control and in its favor even in the heart of Moscow.

At the height of the cold war, the arms race was one of its predominant characteristics and was at its most evident during the past 15 years, which witnessed the crystallization of the policy of both wearing the Soviet Union down by dragging it into a race that would have an inevitable result as far as advanced-technology weapons were concerned, and exhausting it through futile regional and civil wars in various parts of the world.

What helped the success of that strategy was the shortsightedness of the aging Soviet leadership and its empty delusions of grandeur and the erosion of the socioeconomic infrastructure of a Soviet system on the verge of bankruptcy.

That page in the world's history has now been turned, and the United States is confident that the military threat to the alternative world system, or the new world system, has now disappeared. The reduction announcement did not make a parallel reduction in the East's arsenal a precondition. That arsenal is no longer competitive qualitatively or quantitavely, nor is it competitive as far as the forces likely to use it are concerned.

It is very important to stress here that, while it is of historic importance, development remains a first step or a first indication because, by virtue of their position as the world's major powers, the United States and the other powers are equally responsible for solving the problems or promoting solutions for all the regional conflicts which were affected by their continuation or intensification of the cold war. They also are responsible for drawing up relief plans and development aid policies for the needy states, and for developing the organizational frameworks of the international organs and establishments to enable them to play their part in enhancing and controlling international relations.

Oil Minister Details 'Unfair' Resolution 706

JN0210171091 Baghdad AL-QADISIYAH in Arabic 1 Oct 91 pp 1, 7

[By Aghadir Mahdi]

[Text] Oil Minister Usamah 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Hiti has informed AL-QADISIYAH that Iraq will diligently explain to friendly and fraternal countries the exploitative details and unfair dimensions of Resolution 706, and tell the brother oil ministers the truth about this resolution.

The oil minister said that the negative technical and marketing aspects of this resolution make it impractical to implement. The minister added: Besides, these negative aspects run counter to the methods normally followed in the world oil industry regarding the production, exportation, and marketing of oil. Iraq has extensive experience in marketing crude oil. Likewise, it has efficient personnel qualified to market Iraqi crude oil. As a matter of course, marketing oil requires a large degree of flexibility and the ability to render decisions quickly. It is a well-known fact that contracts are sometimes concluded over the telephone or by telex. At other times, such contracts are concluded during direct negotiations. The interference of a third party, as is detailed in Resolution 706, precludes this flexibility and obstructs the marketing process. Furthermore, one of the well-known features of marketing crude oil among world buyers is security and confidentiality regarding prices. The announcement of the prices of various deals or shipments in advance would undermine a basic feature of successful marketing. Similarly, the 6-month time frame described in Resolution 706 fails to heed the norms used in the world oil trade regarding annual contracts and the seasonal increase in oil prices. Hence, this term would confuse the process of exporting Iraqi oil and place difficulties in the face of marketing the required oil quantities. This could lead to a reduction in the price of Iraqi oil.

The oil minister went on to say: The financial provision contained in the resolution, which stipulates that Iraq should not be allowed to export more than $1.6 billion worth of oil in a 6-month period, falls well short of meeting Iraq's humanitarian and civilian needs. Besides, crude oil production costs are constantly increasing. The failure to take production and transportation costs into account means that there would be a decrease in production as a result of the absence of investment. If this were to happen, it would be at the expense of the Iraqi people's basic needs.

Al-Hiti noted: The fact that the UN Security Council Sanctions Committee will have to endorse oil deals and contracts entails a great deal of red tape, as there would have to be unanimous approval of each and every oil deal. This is bound to result in a waste of time, the absence of liquidity, and the failure to maintain an organized Iraqi oil pumping operation, which is a requirement for oil marketing, especially when the marketing involves the use of pipelines whose destinations are ports in a foreign country. Besides, the economics of exporting oil products is normally marginal. They become useless when they are further financially burdened. Hence, the quota payments to the fund from money earned through the exportation of oil products virtually means that Iraq is banned from exporting its products, and that it would sustain losses if it were to do so. All this shows us that the mechanism for implementing the resolution is very complicated. There are technical, as well as practical, difficulties that obstruct the production, exportation, and marketing of crude oil and oil products. This is because numerous approvals would be required during the various stages of implementing the resolution. Likewise, this resolution does not meet Iraq's humanitarian needs. As for those who authored this resolution, they profess that they backed its passage for humanitarian reasons, in light of the Iraqi people's sufferings as a result of the shortages of food, medicine, and other basic necessities.

Usamah 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Hiti added: This resolution calls for depositing oil revenues in a UN escrow account in Switzerland. In addition, this resolution exclusively confines the exportation of oil through Turkey. Besides, all of the contracts that we sign have to be approved by the UN Sanctions Committee. A UN representative is supposed to work with the Iraqi marketing agency. All revenues and contracts will be controlled by the United Nations, which would send inspection committees to be based in Karkuk, along the Iraqi-Turkish border, at the Turkish port of Yumurtalik, and at the Iraqi-Jordanian border to control the pumping of Iraqi oil through Turkey, to control the oil revenues, and to receive food and medical supplies via Jordan. This would be very costly for us.

The oil minister said that the agreement currently in force between Iraq and Turkey (207) [figure as published] stipulates that we pay 43 cents in transit fees for each barrel of oil transported through Turkey. He added: As for now, the Turkish authorities are demanding $2.77 in transit fees for each barrel; that is, seven times what was previously agreed upon. If we were to implement the UN plans to market 97 million barrels of oil, which would yield $1.6 billion, we would have to pay $264 million in taxes for pumping the oil through Turkey. According to the agreement concluded with Turkey, this amount should not exceed $41 million. Besides, we would have to pay UN inspection committees $95 million. The remaining amount, which totals $933 million [figure as published], could then be used to buy food and medical supplies. Additionally, we would have to pay $480 million to the reparations fund. It should be noted here that production costs have not been taken into account. So, the real value of the figures mentioned above are different from what one perceives at first glance. The production cost of each barrel in hard currency has not been disclosed.

The oil minister added: This resolution is ostensibly meant to make certain agencies, namely Western companies, purchase the oil. Consequently, they would virtually set the price for Iraqi oil in advance. We also believe that such a thing would determine the sources of food and medicine, as well as their prices, because the two processes are interlinked. Hence, we consider the entire process to be an act of public and organized international theft.

Al-Hiti went on to say: Therefore, it becomes clear that this resolution reflects an interference in the fullest sense of the word because it is based on numerous deficiencies and contradictions. This resolution interferes with the details of producing, pumping, and marketing oil. Consequently, it would unreasonably and unjustifiably complicate the oil industry norms and methods. Moreover, this resolution would burden the Iraqi oil institutions, which are known for their efficiency and advanced skills, with exorbitant financial costs and futile monitoring and inspection measures that could only create job opportunities for other agencies. This resolution is meant to obstruct our purchase of food and medicines. Similarly, it would hinder our efforts to market our oil, and consequently help maintain the unfair economic blockade imposed on our dear Iraq.

Bush Request To Keep Blockade Termed 'Illegal'

JN0210112491 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1000 GMT 2 Oct 91

[Text] Baghdad, 2 Oct (INA)—The newspaper BABIL has asserted that the aggression and economic seige against Iraq are examples of the U.S. policy of double standards motivated by the Zionist lobby.

In an editorial today, the paper says that Bush's request from the United Nations to maintain the economic blockade on Iraq is illegitimate and illegal, and that the United Nations, as a humanitarian organization, cannot possibly approve the starvation of an entire people.

The paper expresses amazement at the world silence on the brutal and coercive conduct of the U.S. Administration and its continued interference in Iraq's domestic affairs and its attempt to impose a certain regime on it.

The paper adds that it is very strange that Bush should define to mankind and the United Nations their future task toward two basic issues; namely, maintaining the economic blockade on Iraq and annulling the resolution that equates Zionism with racism. Thus, the United States is now responsible for the UN forum and for human rights, although it is the state that most violates human rights and international law.

The paper points out that Bush, speaking from the UN forum, defended Zionism and asked for canceling the resolution equating it with racism, at a time when Israel is usurping Arab territory in Palestine, Syria, Lebanon, bringing in more Jews to the occupied territories, practicing the ugliest forms of oppression against Palestinians, and confiscating their lands.

The paper asks: If Bush believes in bringing up previous resolutions, including the UN resolution condemning the Zionist entity, then why does he not remember the resolutions adopted by the United Nations and the Security Council on the Palestinian question, which have been rejected by Israel?

Report on U.S. 'Contempt' for World Community

JN0310102391 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0720 GMT 3 Oct 91

[Text] Baghdad, 3 Oct (INA)—The newspaper AL-'IRAQ has asserted that the exposure of the espionage carried out by David Kay for the U.S. intelligence service under cover of the United Nations throws light on the extent of the U.S. contempt for the world community and its infiltration into its specialized institutions and agencies.

In an editorial today, AL-'IRAQ says: The admission by UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar and the head of the inspection teams, Rolf Ekeus, that David Kay has betrayed his international mission in favor of his mission as an officer of the CIA has confirmed the credibility and soundness of the Iraqi official stand, which confronted Kay's provocative acts and blatant contacts with Washington to inform it of the documents related to Iraqi scientists and expose them to danger at the hands of U.S. and Israeli agents.

AL-'IRAQ called for putting an end to the U.S. hegemonistic behavior toward the United Nations and its agencies. It said silence over the excessive U.S. contempt for the most supreme world institutions and turning them into dens of espionage, robbery, and extortion only means submission to the U.S. arrogance and collusion with it to infringe on the sovereignty of independent states and the mortgage of their will.

China, Others Contributed to Nuclear Project

AU0210151791 Paris AFP in English 1423 GMT 2 Oct 91

[Text] Paris, Oct 2 (AFP) — China, Argentina, Brazil and Yugoslavia are among countries which supplied Iraq with equipment for its nuclear weapons programme, the scale of which has astounded Western experts, a reliable French expert source said.

Intelligence services around the world have been amazed at the revelations about the Iraqi programme which is based on equipment suitable for use either in a civilian programme or for the production of enriched uranium and plutonium, and detonators for a nuclear weapon.

The picture given by the source, who may not be named, is one of an advanced effort to build nuclear weapons in

better facilities than those used in the West—a programme which Iraqi officials are determined to pursue.

Since May the so-called Club of London of countries with nuclear technology has reinforced controls and extended the list of banned materials.

The 26 members from the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the European Community, Scandinavian countries and six other countries in Eastern Europe, are to meet next week in Annapolis near Washington. A new list of products and recommendations might be published early next year.

The names of countries and companies said to have supplied equipment to Iraq were reportedly found in documents seized by the sixth United Nations mission to Iraq but the list has not been released officially. A report by the mission led by David Kay is expected at the end of the week or early next week. It would concern various purchases, particularly from Argentinian and Brazilian companies, and also from Yugoslav interests, and some "rather sensitive" Chinese equipment had been noted. The equipment was for use in the enrichment of uranium and for the detonation of an atomic bomb.

United Nations inspectors had been surprised to discover carbon-fibre centrifugal units of the most modern type available. Scientists in Baghdad had not worked on this advanced technique despite the existence in Iraq of a "fabulous centre for studying matter which is unequalled in the United States and in Europe as regards equipment", the source said. The investigators were also surprised at the way Iraq had distributed the work, and had used installations in civilian non-nuclear installations, military plants, and factories to continue their plan.

"What is more, this is still going on," the French specialist source said. "They clean covered areas, rebuild walls, hide railway lines. They have lain concrete here and there to hide things." He said: "Up to recently about 20 sites had been uncovered. After the sixth mission we are at about 30. This does not mean that we have found everything. Other visits must be made. We discovered a total of 25 calutrons. The Iraqis were waiting for 90 more. It is the same for the centrifugal units."

The United Nations would have to decide whether to destroy or remove the nuclear installations. "This has not begun so the Iraqis are resuming their work. They must be destroyed, with dynamite if necessary. But where should one draw the line? There is a danger of destroying scientific installations.

"But there is too great a risk of seeing Iraq start up again, particularly since very high level Iraqi experts say that 'even if you destroy all our installations we have the knowledge and we shall begin again'."

The Iraqi problem, which had no connection with defensive weapons, highlighted the risk of nuclear proliferation. "Beyond the problem of the Middle East, where several countries are trying to acquire nuclear weapons because Israel has them, we should not forget the Indian subcontinent with Pakistan and India," the source said. "Under these conditions it is unlikely that France would ever supply the reprocessing plant which Pakistan has sought for years," the expert said.

Barzani Urges Realistic Baghdad Approach

JN0210190991 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan in Arabic 1712 GMT 2 Oct 91

[Text] Comrade struggler Mas'ud Barzani visited the Klar District on 29 September. He was warmly welcomed and received by tens of thousands of people in Klar, Khanaqin, and surrounding areas. During the reception ceremonies, hundreds of placards were raised welcoming him.

Upon his arrival, comrade struggler Mas'ud Barzani addressed the broad masses with a valuable speech, explaining the overall situation, the issue of dialogue with the central government, the phases that have been covered in the negotiations, the drafts drawn up regarding the new autonomy law, the normalization of the situation in Kurdistan, defining the borders of the autonomy region, the issues of democracy and political pluralism, and various other issues.

Comrade struggler Mas'ud Barzani addressed the masses, saying: Today is a day when we have to use the minds, and not allow emotions and [words indistinct] to govern us. He added: We are not afraid of outbidding. This is because our past is well-known. All that we have done has been for the sake of vindicating Kurds and Kurdistan. Similarly, what we will do from now on will also be for the sake of vindicating Kurds and Kurdistan. If a reasonable solution were to be found through peaceful means, we will be happy with this. To me, there is nothing that is dearer and more cherished than Kurds and Kurdistan. In this vein, I would prefer death over having to see Kurdistan void of Kurds, or Kurds without Kurdistan. Our natural rights largely exceed autonomy. We are a nation that has been divided against its own will. On this basis, I would like to reiterate that we have to be realistic. There is a difference between the rights which we desire and wish to have on the one hand, and between achievable and attainable rights. If we think in this manner, I believe that we will not make mistakes.

In his speech delivered before the Klar masses, comrade struggler Mas'ud Barzani added: Right now, we are doing our utmost to achieve the best agreement. If we were to find ourselves compelled to postpone a final settlement of some areas, we would not bargain over the rights of Kurdish masses wherever they may be, whether or not they were to be residents of the areas to be included in the autonomy region. The rights of our

Kurdish masses—whether they live in Karkuk, Khanaqin, Mandali, Sinjar, al-Sulaymaniyah, Irbil, Dahuk, or any other city—must be guaranteed.

Then comrade struggler Mas'ud Barzani touched on what has been circulated regarding an alternative solution, and on what external parties can do. He reiterated what he said to the masses in the cities and hamlets which he has visited during his current tour. He said that he does not know of any alternative solution, and that all that has been circulated about the issue is baseless. He added: All that has been actually possible and attainable is nothing but the humanitarian assistance, which is discussed by world figures, parties, and states. The reference here is to the states which have provided humanitarian relief aid and assistance during our ordeal. He elaborated on the perception entertained by some on the possibility of a coup, what a new ruler could do as a result of this, and the impact of such a thing on the Kurdish issue. He said: Toward the end of 1988, we in Syria attempted to convince the Iraqi opposition to accept autonomy for the Kurdish people, to no avail. If a military general were to carry out a successful coup and take over power, what would he do? What would the result be if the economic blockade imposed on him is lifted, and if he manages to acquire capabilities? What a catastrophe would then be in store for us! If they [not further identified] were honest, let the parties which seek to carry out a coup come, and provide us guarantees that the Kurdish people wound not be aggressed upon and that they would be granted autonomy. But to keep waiting for the occurrence of a coup, to see campaigns launched against [words indistinct], and to see [words indistinct] destroyed is an unsound perception. Hence, why should we waste the current opportunity. In the first place, the Kurdish issue is a political issue rather than a merely humanitarian one. Our issue is not one of hunger. Hence, as long as the path of peace is open, we should not think of any other means to achieve our objectives. We do not want a war that could lead to displacement and destitution without achieving our objectives. Rather, we desire and welcome the peace that would realize our freedom and autonomy.

Comrade struggler Mas'ud Barzani also stressed the need to safeguard the Kurdistan Front, since it is the historic accomplishment of our people. He added: Now, we are working to vindicate the Kurdish people and their movement, and not for the sake of achieving selfish personal gains. The masses should thwart the efforts of all those who sought to deviate or sabotage the Front. He went on to say: The only guarantee for the Kurdish people, regarding any agreement that could be concluded, is the Kurdish people's unity. He also called for learning from the experiences of the 1970-74 period. After he had noted the need for foiling the efforts of those who are attacking people and harming the Kurdish people's reputation, and for their punishment, comrade struggler Mas'ud Barzani referred to relations between the Arab and Kurdish nations. He said: Even when we fight the regime, this should not mean that we must antagonize the Arab people. We need the Arab-Kurdish brotherhood. Therefore, this brotherhood must be safeguarded. This must be part of our strategy. In this regard, he referred to some regrettable incidents which took place in some areas.

DPK Leader Praises Government Negotiations

JN0210141891 Baghdad INA in English 1340 GMT 2 Oct 91

[Text] Baghdad, Oct. 2, INA—Secretary of the Politburo of the Kurdistan Democratic Party [DPK] Mahmud Uthman stressed dialogue and fraternity were our path for constructing Iraq and boosting autonomous rule.

In a statement to the Baghdad BABIL newspaper published today, the Kurdish leader said there is no return to fighting in the north which had greatly harmed the interests of all Iraqis—Arabs and Kurds—and other minorities.

He added that several international forces had exploited the Kurdish problem and encouraged fighting for realizing their illegitimate interests and greeds and for the purpose of weakening Iraq and blocking the path of dialogue and understanding and constructing the homeland.

The Kurdish leader further stressed that all in Iraq are committed to dialogue and the spirit of brotherhood and frankness, and to turn aside the page of the past and start a new joint national experiment, blocking once and for all the way of fighting.

Meanwhile, TARIQ AL-HURRIYAH (road of freedom) newspaper issued by the Kurdistan Party said dialogue with the Iraqi Government delegation had made advanced strides toward the final agreement with the Kurdish parties front delegation.

The paper article quoted by BABIL newspaper said the two sides agreed on the new autonomous rule law and the final statement.

The Iraqi paper also quoted the secretary general of the KDP [DPK] Sami 'Abd-al-Rahman as saying that negotiations between the central government and the delegation of the Kurdish parties front proved that good faith, national unity, fraternity and enjoyment of equal rights were all based on strong ground.

He added that agreement between the two sides would be accomplished and that there were no obstacles facing them and that it was necessary to be aware since the enemies of such agreement were many and that neighbours of Iraq were in particular against it and some of them were actually conspiring against it.

The Kurdish leader further pointed out that there are international forces which harbour concealed disapproval to the agreement but he did not elaborate.

New Round of Talks With Kurds To Begin 'Soon'

JN0110133191 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1231 GMT 1 Oct 91

[Text] Baghdad, 1 Oct (INA)—It was reported here today that a new round of talks between the central government and the delegation of the Iraqi Kurdistan Parties Front will begin in Baghdad soon.

The newspaper BABIL says today that during the dialogue, final touches will be added to the agreement which will enhance Iraqi unity.

Mas'ud Barzani, representative of the Kurdistan Parties Front, yesterday stated to INA that the Kurdish issue can only be tackled in Baghdad regardless of circumstances. He said that our Kurdish people consider peace to be the constant policy governing all their practices and a means for stability and happiness.

Opposition Reports on al-Maymunah, Tikrit Battles

NC0110160891 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Opposition in Arabic 1500 GMT 1 Oct 91

[Text] Bloody battles ensued in the al-Maymunah area when the citizens clashed with the tyrant's henchmen and the troops he recently sent to this area, which is known for its resistance to the defeated regime.

Iraqi opposition sources have said that the masses who were scattered in the marshlands stood up to the tyrant's force on 17 September [words indistinct]. Our citizens controlled the city of al-Maymunah and its suburbs and destroyed the dens belonging to the oppressive regime and the party, dens that the tyrant's henchmen had turned into prisons to incarcerate those who opposed the arrogant dictator.

Opposition sources have indicated that the citizens dispersed in the marshlands after concluding their missions, carrying arms and ammunition seized from the dens of the regime apparatus and the headquarters of the 10th Brigade, which retreated to the back lines. [passage indistinct]

In another development, sources in the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq have said that clashes are continuing between the al-Miqdad clan [words indistinct]. The sources added that [word indistinct] Saddam's brother is personally commanding the battle against this great clan. It has been reported that this clan's chief had been executed for criticizing the tyrant.

The clashes extended to the area of [name indistinct] near Tikrit, and dozens have been killed or wounded. An armored car belonging to the regime's troops has been destroyed as well.

Shamir Sees 'Reasonable Chance' for Oct Talks

TA0310120491 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1105 GMT 3 Oct 91

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir says Israel is surprised by Egypt's opposition to the U.S. initiative to revoke the UN resolution equating Zionism with racism. The prime minister was speaking during a rally of Betar-Herut settlement members in northern Samaria, and our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports:

[Begin recording] [Hecht] On the eve of the convocation of the peace conference, one would expect an atmosphere of peace on the part of the Arab partners, the prime minister said, but in the meantime we see no trace of this.

[Shamir] He approached the United Nations and proposed something that should be taken for granted: to repeal the 1975 resolution equating Zionism with racism. And lo and behold, the Arabs—including the Egyptians, with whom we have had a peace treaty for 12 years—are now opposed to this. This is an antipeace atmosphere.

[Hecht] Mr. Prime Minister, do you have information that Faysal al-Husayni and Hanan 'Ashrawi were indeed in Algiers, and what do you intend to do about this?

[Shamir] I am not investigating this and I have no information. There are various reports, and those who are in charge of this are investigating.

[Hecht] The prime minister said there is certainly a reasonable chance that the peace conference will yet convene before the end of this month. This now depends on the completion of technical and procedural matters.

[Shamir] It is known, after all, that in their last meeting, the U.S. President and his Soviet counterpart decided to launch an effort at a peace conference in October, and it is now October.

[Hecht] The prime minister was asked: Did you order a halt to the construction of settlements in the territories? His answer: I do not build settlements and I did not order a halt to them. [end recording]

Anger Toward U.S. in Talks on Memorandum

TA0310075291 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 3 Oct 91 p 1

[Report by Hemi Shalev and Dan Avidan]

[Text] The deadlock in the U.S.-Israeli talks on the formulation of a memorandum of understanding between the two countries on the peace process has given rise to a great deal of anger in Israel toward the United States. To speed up matters, Israel has suggested that the talks be transferred from Washington to Jerusalem.

"It is tough going," a senior Jerusalem official admitted last night. He was referring to meetings between Ambassador Zalman Shoval and Dennis Ross, director of the State Department's Policy Planning Staff, which are dealing with the clarification of points in the memorandum of understanding. Israel, the official said, resents the fact that the United States is applying equal standards to the memorandum of understanding it is supposed to sign with Israel and those to be signed with the Arab countries. "We constitute 50 percent of the conflict," he said, "and yet we are the only ones required to yield."

Moreover, Israel and the United States are still divided over the Palestinians' right to address the opening session of the peace talks. Israel is demanding that only the Jordanian representative be allowed to make a speech, but the Americans have refused to guarantee that.

Political sources in Jerusalem said last night that Secretary of State Baker will arrive on another round of talks in about 10 days. On this visit, Baker will attempt to settle all the remaining disputes with Israel and to ensure that the formation of a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation is completed.

The sources added that apparently Jordan and the Palestinians, who have not as yet reached an accord on the very point of a joint delegation, are far from agreeing on the identities of the delegation members.

It has been learned that Baker has leveled sharp criticism at the Palestinians' failure to act toward the establishment of a joint delegation. This criticism may have been the factor behind the PLO announcement yesterday that it is sending a delegation to Jordan for that purpose.

In the talks with Shoval, the Americans emphasized several times that they mean to be "honest brokers" at the peace talks. For that reason, any promise they deliver has to be in the open and they cannot make contradictory promises to the parties.

Political sources have said that only "cosmetic progress" has been made in the Shoval-Ross talks and that no progress at all has been made on the main issues. One of the points is the U.S. refusal to guarantee its support should Israel leave the negotiating table in the wake of a Palestinian delegation's solidarity with the PLO.

Despite an Israeli demand, the United States refuses to refrain from proffering its interpretation of Resolution 242, which says that the resolution means "territories for peace." It also refuses to include in the memorandum of understanding a clause stating that the process aims at attaining a "peace treaty" between Israel and each and every Arab country.

The prime minister's bureau wants to move the talks from Washington to Jerusalem in order to ensure their rapid completion and the participation of senior Israeli elements in the talks. Israel has therefore asked Baker to send a team of senior officials to Jerusalem to hold a final discussion on the memorandum.

Jordan Plan for Separate Talks To Be Rejected

TA0210203691 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 2 Oct 91

[Text] PLO spokesmen announced this evening that a high-ranking delegation will travel to Amman within 48 hours for talks on the peace conference. They did not mention the establishment of a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation.

Our Arab affairs correspondent Ehud Ya'ari says that Israel will reject the proposal raised by Jordanian Prime Minister Tahir al-Masri today that Palestinian representatives alone will conduct the negotiations with Israel over the territories, while the Jordanian delegation holds talks about peace between Jordan and Israel in a separate room.

Tehiya Bid for Knesset Dissolution 'Next Week'

TA0210205291 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 2 Oct 91

[Text] Tehiya is taking action to hold early elections. The party's secretariat decided this evening to put forward the bill on the dissolution of the Knesset next week. Our party affairs correspondent Hanan 'Azran reports that the Tehiya Central Committee will be convened next week to decide on the party's continued partnership in the coalition if the government accepts the invitation to join the peace conference.

Correspondent on Palestinians' Talks in Algiers

TA0210202591 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 2 Oct 91

[Report by political correspondent Gadi Sukenik]

[Text] Last week Faysal al-Husayni and Hanan 'Ashrawi disappeared from their London hotel and returned two days later. According to leaks, rumors, and the media, they left to participate in the Palestine National Council meeting in Algiers, but there did not seem to be sufficient conclusive evidence to support such talk. The two denied the reports, and the prime minister's bureau reacted by saying that Israel had no information on whether the two had actually gone to Algiers.

Well, the facts are that the two Palestinian representatives had indeed flown to Algiers, where they appeared behind closed doors before the political committee led by Nabil Sha'th, a top PLO figure.

Attendees have said that al-Husayni started by reporting about a woman he met a few days before in Gaza who had lost two sons to the intifadah. Al-Husayni claimed that she told him she was ready to sacrifice more sons to achieve Palestinian statehood. Then, after the belligerent opening, he reported on his meetings with James Baker and the possibility of ending the bloodshed and achieving the goals by peaceful ways.

Ms. 'Ashrawi spoke after him. She impressed the PLO leaders with her reports on the political talks in which she had participated.

During the session, George Habash, leader of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, asked for a separate, private meeting with the two, but Yasir 'Arafat vetoed this. He himself held a meeting with the two subsequently and talked to them for several hours. Then they reappeared suddenly in London.

The Prime Minister's Office today officially commented on the matter, saying that if these are really the facts, the steps specified by law—namely the law that bans contacts with the PLO—will be applied. Likud ministers have refused to react.

One can rather safely assume that Israel and the United States are well aware of the facts but that they have thus far preferred to ignore them even though the PLO has been steadily becoming a party to the peace process. The PLO, as will be recalled, is the organization which Israel has officially rejected and with which the United States announced a break in relations. If there is a videocassette of the meeting, it is presumably in 'Arafat's hands. Consequently, it will be legally difficult to press charges against the two, who are still in London, upon their return to Israel.

Gorbachev Sends Herzog Message of Appreciation

TA0210121091 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 2 Oct 91

[Text] President Hayim Herzog has received a message from Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev expressing Gorbachev's sincere appreciation for Herzog's cable of encouragement and congratulations sent after the aborted coup in the USSR and Gorbachev's return to the presidency. This was reported by our correspondent Mira Amsalem.

Argentine President Continues Visit

Meets Shamir, Offers To Host Talks

TA0210123091 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 2 Oct 91

[Text] Argentine President Carlos Menem has offered to host the peace conference in his country's capital, Buenos Aires. Our political correspondent Arye Golan reports that the suggestion was made in the course of the visiting president's meeting with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir.

The meeting dealt also with the problem of Israel's POW's and MIA's and the condition of Syrian Jews. President Menem promised to raise these issues during visits to Egypt and Tunis and even discuss them when he visits Syria.

Menem, Shamir Interviewed

TA0210185491 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1705 GMT 2 Oct 91

[Report by political correspondent Arye Golan]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Leaving his meeting with the prime minister, President Menem told us: The conversation was excellent; we discussed mainly Middle East peace.

[Begin Menem recording in Spanish, translated into Hebrew] This was a very good, excellent meeting marked by a feeling of friendship and amity. The main issue we discussed was peace in the Middle East. [end recording]

Prime Minister Shamir thanked his guest for Argentina's stand against the UN resolution which equates Zionism with racism and added that because of his Arab origin, President Menem can make his personal contribution toward a peaceful atmosphere and a mood of mutual trust in the Middle East.

[Begin recording] [Shamir] Our conversation was very friendly and dealt primarily with Argentine-Israeli cooperation in various areas, mostly in peace, and the important and substantial contribution the Argentine president—a man of Arab extraction who is proud of his heritage and who has excellent ties both with Israel and with the Jewish community in Argentina—can make, against this backdrop, toward creating the atmosphere of a desire for peace and mutual trust between the two sides in the Middle East. He is aware of his potential ability to contribute and will exploit it when he confers with the various Arab leaders he is scheduled to meet with in the near future.

[Golan] Israel will soon host the new Soviet foreign minister and Secretary Baker. Are we approaching the peace conference despite the difficulties we have with the Americans?

[Shamir] In principle, barring any unforeseen hindrances, we will [word indistinct]. [end recording]

As for practical matters, the working teams that participated in the Menem-Shamir meeting decided to establish a joint committee to regulate trade, economic, scientific, and technological ties.

Unscheduled Visit to Cairo

TA0210211691 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 2100 GMT 2 Oct 91

[Text] Argentine President Carlos Menem will leave Jerusalem for Cairo on Friday for an unscheduled visit. He will confer with President Mubarak. The above was reported by our correspondent Mira Amsalem. This evening President Menem dined with President Herzog.

Tourist Stabbed to Death in East Jerusalem

TA0210150991 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 2 Oct 91

[Text] A German tourist was stabbed to death at East Jerusalem's Damascus Gate a short while ago. Her friend sustained medium to serious wounds. An initial report given to our correspondent Moshe Nussbaum indicates that the tourists were apparently attacked by one man who wielded a knife. A large police presence is in the area, and about 30 suspects have been detained for questioning.

Shamir on Murder, Guarantees

TA0210182891 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1705 GMT 2 Oct 91

[Text] The town of Hadera today celebrated its 100th anniversary, and Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir toured the town this evening. He was accompanied by our correspondent Shmu'el Tal:

The prime minister this evening issued his first reaction to the murder in Jerusalem, which he views as yet another incident whose import is not accurately perceived in the world.

[Begin Shamir recording] Regrettably, the assassinations of civilians—tourists and citizens of Israel—by the Arab rioters in Jerusalem, these acts of murder continue recklessly. I am not sure the world realizes the cruelty of these murders or thinks about whether there is a parallel example anywhere in the world of a war for so-called national goals that is conducted through such means. We, and mainly our security forces, will take all measures to uproot these criminal and horrendous acts. [end recording]

As for the loan guarantees that have been held up, the prime minister said that no decision on the matter has been made yet. There is only support.

[Begin Shamir recording] The U.S. Administration has given us no promise, but there is vast support by congressmen—on whom the entire matter depends—that when the time comes this plan will be carried out. [end recording]

The prime minister firmly denied reports that he had allowed Faysal al-Husayni and Hanan 'Ashrawi to meet with PLO leaders. He said: This is nonsense and utter rubbish.

Police Minister Comments

TA0310074191 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0600 GMT 3 Oct 91

[Text] The police affairs minister has said that a terrorist act such as the one perpetrated in East Jerusalem yesterday will hurt tourism in areas where Arabs reside. According to Minister Roni Milo, this hurts everyone, including the Arabs, and the blow dealt to tourism is already being felt in East Jerusalem and Bethlehem. In an interview to Qol

Yisra'el, Milo said he supports anything that may deter the murderers, including the death penalty.

As for the al-Husayni and 'Ashrawi issue, the police affairs minister said that if the two indeed met with PLO people, they will be interrogated and treated like lawbreakers.

Carla Weissen, 50, from Hamburg, Germany, was murdered in yesterday's terrorist attack. The wounded tourist was operated on yesterday and is in good condition.

A debriefing following the attack indicates that the activities of the border policemen stationed in the area were faultless. It seems that the murderer waited until a Border Police patrol left the Damascus Gate area, and only then did he attack the tourists. Seven of the dozens detained following the attack are still in custody, and their interrogation is continuing.

Leftist Parties React

TA0210185791 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1830 GMT 2 Oct 91

[Text] Here are some comments about the murder in Jerusalem: The Citizens Rights Movement, MAPAM [United Workers Party], and Shinuy say that while it is possible to kill an innocent woman, it is impossible to kill the desire for peace, which Arabs and Jews alike share. The Palestinians who reject peace, the leftist parties say, predictably engage in acts of murder, but this is their swan song, a lost battle.

Bethlehem Mayor Condemns Attack

TA0210183591 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 2 Oct 91

[Text] Bethlehem mayor Ilyas Frayj this evening strongly condemned the attack on the two German tourists in East Jerusalem, describing it as a criminal and cowardly act that harms the reputation of the Palestinian people and undermines their position. In a statement to our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem, Mr. Frayj called on the residents of the territories to halt such repugnant acts that cause lack of sympathy for the Palestinian people.

Levi Continues Visit, Talks in New York

Meets Ethiopian Counterpart

TA0310054791 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 3 Oct 91

[Text] The Ethiopian Government is allowing all Ethiopian Jews to leave for Israel. The Ethiopian foreign minister met with Foreign Minister David Levi at the United Nations in New York yesterday and emphasized that Ethiopia is now a democracy and that there is no restriction on the movements of its citizens. Ethiopia has asked Israel for agricultural and industrial aid and will soon send a delegation to discuss these issues with Israeli experts.

Yesterday Minister Levi also conferred with the UN secretary general and was briefed on the contacts for the release of POW's and MIA's in Lebanon.

Briefs U.S. Jewish Leaders

TA0310073191 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 3 Oct 91

[Report from Washington by 'Oded Ben-'Ami]

[Excerpt] Foreign Minister David Levi is trying to ease the tension in Israeli-U.S. relations. In a speech before American Jewish leaders, he repeated five times the sentence that tension should be reduced. Israel surely has no intention of provoking the U.S. Administration or angering the President. There must be greater understanding between the administration and Israel, he told the Jewish leaders, who repeatedly asked him about the settlement issue: Why is settlement going on now, and in a provocative manner to boot? Levi's answer: Settlement is, after all, included in the platform of this government. The government's policy is well known, and the people gave the government a mandate to execute this policy.

Referring to Secretary Baker, Levi added that there is no room for the demand that Israel desist from setting up settlements before the regional conference takes place; the settlement issue will be discussed in the direct talks between Israel and the Arabs.

As for the aliyah guarantees issue, Levi said that this is a humanitarian issue and that the U.S. Administration should not have mixed it with a political one. Still, Levi stressed, tension should be reduced. [passage omitted]

Ghali Rejects Camp David as Basis for Talks

TA0210114191 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 2 Oct 91

[Text] Deputy Egyptian Premier Butrus Ghali says peace negotiations cannot be based on the autonomy talks that began 14 years ago. This time, the Palestinian people will be participating in the negotiations. The international situation had changed, and the cold war had ended. Ghali told the AL-TALI'AH paper that negotiations must start at once and go on until a peace settlement is achieved based on UN resolutions and self-determination for the Palestinian people. He also said that China, the Soviet Union, and France support his candidacy for UN secretary general.

Peres for 'Interim Arrangements' on Golan

TA0210210191 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1940 GMT 2 Oct 91

[Interview with Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres by Yisra'el Segal and party affairs correspondent Hanan 'Azran, moderated by Yoram Ronen on the weekly "Moqed" program—live]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Segal] At the moment, without a settlement freeze, the incumbent Likud government is going to a peace conference, one of whose clauses involves negotiations with Syria. It is common knowledge that the issue at hand is the Golan Heights. But lo and behold, in none other than your own party voices have been heard—by Yitzhaq Rabin, to give but one example—that that area should under no circumstances be given up. It looks like things are topsy-turvy, where the Likud is ready to start negotiations with Syria even if one of the issues is the Golan Heights, whereas the Labor Party sings the opposite tune.

[Peres] Look, the Likud invited al-Asad to negotiations and announced that it would not give up the Golan Heights. So what will they discuss? How to make a cream cake?

[Segal] What would you discuss with al-Asad?

[Peres] If I had invited al-Asad, I would have understood that it is necessary to achieve arrangements and interim arrangements. That is why from our standpoint we thought that it is first necessary to eliminate the Palestinian issue, and only later discuss the Golan Heights. However, if al-Asad is invited and the Golan Heights issue is on the agenda—despite all the denials—yet Israel says no, then again it would draw fire.

[Segal] What if you were prime minister today? If, hopefully [preceding word in English], there are negotiations with Syria under the prevailing circumstances, would you talk about a compromise on the Golan Heights?

[Peres] I would definitely discuss an interim arrangement on the Golan Heights. Yes.

[Segal] Including aspects of a territorial compromise?

[Peres] Look, I do not have to say more than I said. I would discuss an interim arrangement on the Golan Heights. I think there is room for that.

['Azran] There is room to discuss the Labor Party as a whole, because it does not seem to be talking in one voice. Let me quote Knesset Member Rabin, who said: We should not withdraw from the Golan, and we should approach the negotiations with a firm stand. I ask you: You seem to be talking in two voices, is that not so?

[Peres] So what? That is legitimate. I never promised that the Labor Party would talk in unison. There is one party where, as everyone knows, only one voice speaks: What Sharon says is parroted by Moda'i, Arens, and Levi. That is a different story.

['Azran] What should the public understand from all this?

[Peres] The public will be able to understand after the party convention reaches a decision. On the eve of the convention, however, all tunes can be sung. [passage omitted]

Government Seen Seeking No Peace Agreement

TA0210123691 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 2 Oct 91 p B1

[Gid'on Samet commentary: "As Ripe as Rotten Fruit"]

[Text] The present situation is more ripe than ever for a dialogue between us and the Palestinians; that is why the chances for true negotiations are as slim as they could be. The government can aspire to a dialogue without fear only when one is not clearly visible on the horizon. When a conference is about to materialize, the Likud is struck with fear. Both sides were forced to agree to almost all of the concessions demanded of them before they started talking. The result is subdued panic in top government echelons. That is the clearest possible sign that the encounter with the devil is very near.

Once slogans and propaganda are stripped from the talk about processes and arrangements, one cannot fail to see the degree of flexibility to which the PLO was pushed. We used to demand that Yasir 'Arafat recognize UN Resolution 242, and now he is already using it as a weapon. We used to demand that the organization have no say concerning the composition of the Palestinian delegation. Now that it has outwardly agreed, we seek ways to burn Faysal al- Husayni and Hanan 'Ashrawi because they were in contact with the PLO—for the very purpose of securing that agreement.

Last Sunday, Binyamin Begin published a witty article in HADASHOT about what he sees as the terrible threats of the arrangement. He sounded terrified by the Palestinian concessions. In his distress, Begin tried to find contradictions in the positions of the Labor Party and the left-wing parties. It is clear from the article that even if 'Arafat came here to pray on the grave of Jabotinsky, Begin junior would not make any political deal with him or his associates.

The process unveiling before us, and not for the first time, is an Israeli radicalization that borders on a spell of terrible panic whenever the other side seems to become more rational. The panic is understood: After all, the Likud is not conducting tough negotiations to get its demands met. Even its concessions, made under heavy pressure, were not meant for that. All it wants is to have no give and no take. All of its moves are aimed at preventing real negotiations.

In the past, the Palestinians could be trusted to do their dirty work with their own hands. The standard Israeli argument is that the Palestinians "always shoot themselves in the foot." Nevertheless, this worn-out statement is only effective when they do foil the process. Whenever the Palestinian leadership somewhat changes its habit—as it did in its Palestine National Council resolutions last week—an old truth is revealed: Our government does not want an arrangement.

The distress currently felt by top echelons of the Likud and its partners is the greatest since discussions about an

arrangement in the territories started after Camp David. This time it is serious; something just might come out of it. Already a U.S.-Israeli committee is sitting to decide on the decor and order of seats at the opening session of the conference. The Likud is therefore very touchy and terrified. It is acting and issuing declarations as if it were facing a true emergency.

In this context we can see the relevance of the opposition voiced in Shamir's bureau over the past few days to moving up the elections, and his reservation (justified in itself) about the proposal to hold direct elections for prime minister. No experiments should be made at a time of emergency. Rehav'am Ze'evi and Yuval Ne'eman, however, were convinced to go back on their demand for early elections—and not only because Shamir increased their fear that the Labor Party might form a government. The reason that calmed them down, as in every meeting of the Israeli rejectionist front, worked again: Shamir will allow no arrangement to succeed.

Ripe fruit is either picked, or it rots. The fact that the process is now ripe is encouraging only to those who naively fail to see that the government dislikes the fruit and is shaking the tree to make the fruit fall and rot. After the U.S. pressure, only internal pressure could bring about an arrangement at this critical hour. Internal pressure, however, is not there: The people hear the voices, but do not make even the faintest sound. The Likud is worried by what is happening out there; it can gain strength from what is not happening at home.

That is the prime minister's source of strength. That is the resounding failure of his political opponents. There is no reason to believe that the sleepy public indifference, coupled with the chronic idleness of the opposition, will go away. Stop fooling yourselves, therefore, and stop acting naive. Everything is leading to the failure of the effort to promote an arrangement, and you (most of you) largely contributed to it by your ongoing silence.

Gen. Shahaq Sees Loss of Control in West Bank

TA0210130091 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 2 Oct 91 p 4

[Report by Amnon Levi]

[Text] Addressing the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee yesterday, Major General Amnon Shahaq, deputy chief of staff, said that the intifadah as we knew it has ended; instead there is a static situation of very tense relations between the Jewish and the Arab populations.

Shahaq said that there are places in the West Bank which the PLO controls during the daytime as well. When he flies over Arab villages, he can often see PLO flags hoisted on rooftops and mosques and people assembling in broad daylight, he said. Maj. Gen. Shahaq made these remarks in response to Knesset Member [MK] Elyaqim Ha'etzni, who claimed that today there are two militias in Judaea and Samaria: one belonging to the IDF [Israel Defense Forces], the other to the intifadah.

The MK's got the impression that the deputy chief of staff believes that we must accept the fact that we have lost full control over the West Bank and that we must understand that when the intifadah ends, the IDF will no longer be able to enjoy full control over all of the West Bank. Among other things, the example of Yattah township was mentioned. It has become a center of Arab crime. The IDF is aware of this, but takes no action. Several MK's noted that Maj. Gen. Shahaq was very explicit in his remarks concerning the loss of control over the West Bank.

MK's asked the deputy chief of staff whether the IDF knows for certain that Faysal al-Husayni and Hanan 'Ashrawi indeed attended the Palestine National Council meeting. Shahaq said that he has no proof of that and does not know whether the two actually were there.

The MK's wanted the committee to discuss the recent findings concerning Iraq's nuclear capability and why Israel did not know about it. A special subcommittee started the discussion yesterday and will continue its deliberations next week.

Man Extradited From U.S. Sentenced to Life

TA0210142691 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 2 Oct 91 p 2

[ITIM report]

[Excerpt] The Jerusalem District Court yesterday convicted terrorist Mahmud 'Ata, who was extradited from the United States, of murdering Egged bus driver Shlomo Hatuka and injuring two passengers five years ago. He was given a life sentence. 'Ata was likewise found guilty of the attempted murder of Israeli travelers and of arson.

The court rejected the defense's arguments that Shin Bet interrogators employed intimidation methods to draw the confessions out from the two terrorists who led to 'Ata's conviction.

The late Egged driver Shlomo Hatuka was shot from a terrorist ambush on the evening of 12 April 1986. Two other passengers on bus number 186 were injured as it was traveling near Bet Arye, which is in the Ramallah area. Security forces tracked down 38-year-old Mahmud 'Ata, who is married and the father of four, but he fled to the United States. Following a legal battle, he was eventually extradited to Israel. Charges were filed against him here five years after the crimes were committed. [passage omitted]

No Immigrants Aboard First Flight From Moscow

TA0210124191 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 2 Oct 91

[Excerpt] The first direct flight of the Aerolicht company from Moscow landed at Ben-Gurion Airport this morning, carrying eight passengers. The plane came via Cyprus and brought spare parts, but no immigrants.

The aircraft is due to bring immigrants on its second flight. One of the owners, Ya'aqov Nimrodi, said he would look into the reasons which prevented immigrants from arriving on this morning's flight together with the Jewish Agency. [passage omitted]

Court Accepts Appeal on Likud Elections

TA0210121991 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 2 Oct 91

[Text] The Likud Central Committee will convene in mid-November to endorse a new constitution for the Likud Party. A ruling to this effect was made today by the Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court, which has thereby accepted the time schedule for the election of a new central committee that had been submitted by Likud heads.

Our correspondent Ron Nesi'el notes that the heads of several Likud branches, as well as Likud Knesset members, all identified primarily with Minister Levi's camp, had filed a petition with the court demanding that the Likud be required to submit a detailed time schedule for elections toward the establishment of an elected party convention. If the Likud does not comply with this demand, the legal validity of the extant Central Committee will expire in March 1992.

The court will reconvene in the second half of November to examine the progress of proceedings toward the election of a central committee.

New Arab Party To Run in Knesset Elections

TA0210081891 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 2 Oct 91

[Text] Heads of Arab local authorities plan to establish a new party expected to run in the next Knesset elections. The founders include mayors of Arab townships and villages, some of whom have been identified with HADASH [Democratic Front for Peace and Equality]. Our party affairs correspondent Shlomo Raz reports:

In recent years, the Committee of Arab Local Councils has become the most important body in the Arab sector. Members of the committee were the ones who launched a struggle against what they regarded as discrimination against Arab towns and population. Now they are moving to a higher plane by expanding from the local to the national scene—the Knesset.

Some of the most central local Arab figures are participating in the establishment of the new party: Ibrahim Nimr Husayn, chairman of the committee and the mayor of Shefar'am; his deputy in the committee and al-Tira Mayor Tariq 'Abd-al-Hayy; Muhammad Zaydan from Kafr Manda; and figures from 'Arraba, Dayr Hanna, I'billin, and Iksal. Some of these people have been identified with HADASH, and it is believed that this party, which was established around MAQI [the now defunct Israel Communist Party], will be affected the most by the move. So far, HADASH has had a wide following in the Arab sector.

The Labor Party, too, is closely monitoring the development. Secretary General Mikha Harish mentioned the fact in a briefing to party affairs correspondents yesterday.

The prospective founders of the new party hope to win the support of the Islamic Movement. Some believe that Ra'id Salah Mahajinah, mayor of Umm al-Fahm and one of the Islamic Movement's leaders, may indeed extend his support.

Transportation Minister Departs for Czechoslovakia

TA0310060591 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 2 Oct 91 p C3

[Report by Zohar Blumenkrantz]

[Text] Israel will help Czechoslovakia produce and market the 40-seat regional transport civilian aircraft in the West. Transportation Minister Moshe Qatzav left on an official visit to Prague last night.

In reply to HA'ARETZ's question at Ben-Gurion Airport, Qatzav said that during his visit he will sign an agreement on the mutual recognition of aircraft licenses. He claimed the CSFR has an advanced aircraft industry and its Israeli counterpart is interested in cooperation.

According to Qatzav, the agreement will be signed following lengthy months of negotiations between civil aviation directors of the two countries. The minister is accompanied on his visit by Shay Shohami, director of the Civil Aviation Administration.

The CSFR manufactures and exports military training aircraft to the air forces of a number of countries. Qatzav will tour the Czechoslovak aircraft industries plants and will inspect their operations.

Another issue the minister will discuss with his hosts will be maintenance of the Czechoslovak national carrier, which conducts regular flights to Israel. He will also discuss the possibility of helping to establish maintenance and training installations for CSFR civil aviation, which uses Western and Israel Aircraft Industries aircraft.

The transportation minister will also discuss railroad tracks and trains. The CSFR has a developed industry that manufactures cars and engines. Sha'ul Razi'el, director general of the Ports and Railways Authority, is accompanying the minister for discussions on this issue.

National Conference Preparations Delay Reshuffle

JN0310060291 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 3-4 Oct 91 p 1

[By Nirmin Murad and Caroline Faraj]

[Text] Amman—The future of Prime Minister Tahir al-Masri's government continued to hang in the balance last night as top-level consultations centred on a national conference slated to be held within a week to prepare Jordan for Middle East peace talks.

Until late last week, only a limited cabinet reshuffle had been contemplated with the aim of dropping ministers who oppose the talks. But the picture changed somewhat this week, and any change in the cabinet was held up until consultations were completed for the Oct. 10 national conference, which would be modelled around last June's parley on the National Charter and which would be addressed by His Majesty King Husayn.

The high-level consultations, which were conducted mainly at the Royal Palace and involved former prime ministers and leaders of the main political groups in the country, have not yet concluded on whether a limited cabinet reshuffle would be all that Jordan needed ahead of the proposed peace conference or a more broadly-based cabinet would be formed to be ready for the challenge of negotiations.

"His Majesty the King is keeping all his options open ahead of the impending talks," said one well-informed source. "While a limited or a major reshuffle in the al-Masri cabinet remains a strong possibility, other options have not been ruled out," the source said.

Several press reports in the past two weeks predicted an imminent government reshuffle which would include four serving ministers to resign for "ideological" reasons related to Arab-Israeli negotiations.

Observers and analysts attributed the idea of a major change instead of a limited reshuffle in the government partly to the feeling of confusion that accompanied the resignation of the four ministers and the discussion of the cabinet reshuffle in the press often in contradicting terms. Another important reason is that some Jordanian politicians are calling for a broad-based government which would be able to confront the challenges of Arab-Israeli talks the analysts said.

Which change will eventually take place depends on the continuing consultations leading up to the national conference, which all political groups from Islamists to liberals are expected to attend.

"The King will present a key address in which he will outline Jordan's stand vis-a-vis the peace process and the principles Amman will never drop during the talks," one official source was quoted by Reuters as saying Wednesday.

In return, the King expects to get a popular endorsement of Jordan's decision to attend the peace conference, the source added.

More than 1,500 elected Jordanians—senators, deputies, heads of municipal councils and other dignitaries—attended the June conference. The delegates were selected to reflect the views of Ba'thists, communists, conservative tribesmen, Muslim fundamentalists and liberals.

Former Prime Minister Ahmad 'Ubaydat, who has been closely involved in the consultations at the palace and who headed the National Charter commission, said in a statement he made to the Jordan Times and its Arabic daily al-Ra'y, that he expected this conference to be more comprehensive than the June parley so that the King's address would reach a wider audience.

He said he believed the Jordanian public was interested in reaching a peaceful settlement and would be able to withstand the pressures of such a solution. He added that he believed that all the concerned "Jordanian institutions should also have a role" in the peace process and its outcome.

He expressed hope that the government would be able to formulate a "strategy or a clear vision with concrete foundations" to be able to deal with the details of this phase in regional developments and its different stages.

In answer to a question on whether there have been negotiations to form a cabinet that included former prime ministers Mr. 'Ubaydat said that this political concept was adopted in the fifties "but may have become redundant now."

The late Prime Minister Sa'id al-Mufti formed a "prime ministers' cabinet," a form of a national salvation government in 1957 but analysts point to the different circumstances which warranted that step in the fifties when the country was in turmoil and needed the strength of major political figures at the time.

Mr. 'Ubaydat said that he believed that the delay in announcing the cabinet reshuffle in Mr. al-Masri's government is borne out of the necessity of reaching a "final and suitable picture." He did not elaborate.

Speaker of the Senate Ahmad al-Lawzi confirmed the meetings between the King and political personalities but said that these were consultation meeting to assess the political situation and plans for the future.

He denied press reports which predicted that King Husayn would form a committee of wisemen made up of former prime ministers and other prominent political personalities to work as a consultative body to the King.

"As far as I know there is nothing of the sort," Mr. al-Lawzi said.

Al-Nusur Comments on Invitations to Conference

JN0310064391 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 3 Oct 91 pp 1, 14

[By Kamil Ghazzawi in New York]

[Excerpt] Foreign Minister Dr. 'Abdallah al-Nusur has asserted that official invitations by the United States to attend the Middle East peace conference may be extended within the next two weeks to the five frontline states—Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Egypt, and the PLO.

In exclusive statements to SAWT AL-SHA'B, Dr. al-Nusur added that the invitation may be considered as a document of principles and specific political bases, and not merely a document specifying date and venue. He pointed out that the document includes U.S. interpretation of the UN resolutions on the Middle East.

Dr. al-Nusur said Switzerland and the Hague are candidates to host the conference.

He said: So far, we are satisfied with the U.S. letter of assurances regarding the arrangements for the Middle East peace conference.

The foreign minister yesterday met with the Egyptian foreign minister. They discussed bilateral relations, peace efforts, and coordination between Egypt and Jordan in their capacity as frontline states. [passage omitted]

Palestinian-Jordanian Delegation Detailed

JN0210202291 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 2 Oct 91

[Text] Prime Minister Tahir al-Masri has said that the Arabs will attend the peace conference expected to be held this month. The Arab objective in attending the conference is to retrieve their rights and land, not to declare their capitulation. The objective behind convening the conference is to find a comprehensive solution to the Palestinian question and the problem of the Arab-Israeli conflict on the basis of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, in accordance with the principle of land for peace. He affirmed there is no alternative to the option of a political solution at present.

In an interview with the Spanish newspaper EL PAIS, published today, Mr. al-Masri adds that agreements will soon take place between Jordan and the Palestinians regarding the formation of the two sides' delegation to the peace conference. He pointed out that the joint Jordanian-Palestinian representation will in fact be two parties in one delegation. There will be one president for the two parties. He said each of the two sides, the Jordanian and Palestinian, will assume negotiations with the Israelis as regards the issues proposed for discussion, where each side will express its own viewpoint concerning these issues, however, within the framework of full cooperation and coordination. He pointed out that there is agreement in the viewpoints of the two sides, the Jordanian and the Palestinian, and that the general principles were set even before the recent resolutions of the Palestine National Council.

Prince Hasan Views Peace, Political Process

JN0210101791 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 1 Oct 91

[Text] His Highness Crown Prince Hasan met with the journalists who are participating in the symposium on news coverage during war at Al-Husayn Youth City today. The symposium ended meetings this evening. Let us listen to the details.

During the Meeting, His Highness Crown Prince Hasan called for the establishment of inter-Arab relations on the basis of mutual trust and on the basis of constants and a comprehensive future approach. He affirmed the need to hold inter-Arab political meetings at a time when political balance in the region is absent.

His highness said that Jordan has always encouraged the idea of dialogue and Arab meetings to attain coordination among the Arab countries on the various issues.

His highness wondered about the readiness to rebuild bridges among the Arab brothers, and said he hopes that a specific mechanism will be developed in the future for dialogue on all official and private levels. He said he hopes there will be a new perception of inter-Arab cooperation that takes into consideration the constants and priorities in Arab action such as the Arab-Israeli conflict and the conditions of the Palestinian individual in the occupied Arab territories and elsewhere.

His highness said: We are pained by the forcible immigration from Kuwait to Jordan—and through Jordan to the occupied territories. He wondered how those returning should be classified and how governments and specialized international organizations should be addressed, particularly when there is a certain criteria for the immigration of Soviet Jews on one side while we cannot find a legal, economic, and social criteria for the immigration of the Arab individual on the other. His highness wondered whether the world's approach to our region stems from the fear of what is called extremism and terrorism, or the desire to control oil resources and energy. He also wondered to what extent world public opinion is ready to view this region of the world from the premise of care for the Arab individual. He referred to the double standards used in the dealings with the region according to the various interests of others.

His highness said: As Arabs, writers, and media men we have a responsibility to explain the Arab individual's cause with its priorities in Palestine, Iraq, Sudan, and anywhere else where this individual is suffering. He pointed out that the last decade of this century is the decade of inter-regional cooperation and the decade of cooperation on bases that transcend regionalism to trans-nationalism. He said: We in this region are qualified to be part of this visualization.

Answering a question on a summit of the countries that border Israel and the efforts in this direction to pave the way for the peace conference, the crown prince said that there is a unified Arab stand toward the conference in terms of the need to hold it. We will see during the next few weeks that all the parties are ready to attend the conference.

His highness explained that the political peace march requires years of perseverance. He asserted that the absence of Arab political coordination might lead the outside world to look for accumulated political repercussions from this march, which might distance us from our principled commitment that is based on the wholistic solution that the Arab countries must assert, stress, and accentuate during the political march.

His highness added that Jordan's position toward the peace process is principled in regard to supporting international legitimacy represented in Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. These two resolutions emphasize our viewpoint regarding the principle of land for peace, as well as the awareness of the human suffering in our region.

His highness said: Jordan will not discuss anything on behalf of any party, but we will be ready to carry out our important role as a sovereign state in the region toward multilateral regional issues, within the framework of supporting Palestinian priorities and interests whenever we are asked to do so.

Answering another question, his highness said that it has always been Jordan's concern to develop an Arab human rights charter stemming from the feeling that sufficient concern about this charter should be demonstrated to the decisionmakers in the Arab world.

He added that the safety valve in Jordan is represented by political pluralism and openness. He called for dealing positively with this issue in the Arab arena so as to be able to face the political lexicons being thrust on us in various forms from all countries, especially those in close geographical proximity.

Asked about his highness' assessment of the Palestine National Council's resolutions, especially in regard to the peace process, he said: I appreciate the Palestinian stance in the face of events and the attempt to assert that the Arab and Palestinian sides will not be the party to be blamed internationally if this last chance to achieve peace is passed up. He said that there are basic and fundamental issues that might be dwarfed, like the issues of settlement, self-determination, and Jerusalem.

His highness added: At this stage, we, as Arabs, need to deal realistically with developments. There is a difference between attending the conference and participating in the political course that demands great patience and integration of the latent Arab forces so as to face any emergency caused by the other side.

Al-Nusur, Pankin Discuss Peace Conference

JN0210155591 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 2 Oct 91

[Text] Foreign Minister Dr. 'Abdallah al-Nusur has met in New York with Soviet Foreign Minister Boris Pankin. Talks during the meeting focused on current efforts to establish a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East region, and the peace conference expected to be held sometime this month. They also discussed bilateral relations between Jordan and the Soviet Union, and means of developing and bolstering these ties in all fields.

Velayati on Release of Hostages by 'Christmas'

NC0310092591 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0910 GMT 3 Oct 91

[Text] The newspaper AL-NIDA' has cited knowledgeable sources as saying that Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati told President Ilyas al-Hirawi in New York that all the Western hostages in Lebanon will be released before Christmas.

According to AL-NIDA', Velayati said the elements required for the release of all the detainees held in Israel have become available. He said Iran's allies in Beirut will give all possible assistance to the UN secretary general's efforts in this regard, the paper added.

Hizballah Statement Criticizes 'Arafat, PNC

NC0310075791 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 3 Oct 91

[Excerpts] Commenting on the Palestine National Council [PNC] resolutions and recommendations, Hizballah has issued a statement reiterating its stand on the ill-fated U.S. conference and stressing that any peace with the enemy and any recognition of it and of its usurpation of our lands and rights are concessions no one has the right to make. This is because lands and rights are not the exclusive possession of anyone. Peace with the Zionists also runs counter to the logic of the Koran and the laws of proud nations. [passage omitted]

The Hizballah statement said: We stress that any peace with the enemy will not stop it from continuing its expansionist plans, which will take a new course to complete the establishment of Greater Israel. [passage omitted]

The statement added: The most serious thing our nation is facing is not the Zionist aggression or the U.S. efforts to impose peace, but the atmosphere that the PLO leadership and some regimes are colluding to create on the pretext that time does not work in favor of the Arabs and that it is necessary to speed up the peace process before Israel colonizes all the occupied territory.

The statement added: The PLO leadership is responsible for all this defeatism. It has not been content with its treasonous steps, but has worked to cover up every treasonous action and every suspicious move that undermines the essence of the holy cause. The PNC, which met in Algiers, did not truly represent the Palestinian people because several forces and segments of the Muslim people reject the legitimacy of the PNC. Therefore, the PNC resolutions and recommendations are only binding on those who participated in its meetings.

The big disaster is that 'Arafat has hastened to be the first to approve the settlement initiative so that he will not be the last to join the negotiations. 'Arafat believes he has accomplished a great feat based on political wisdom. The fact is that his approval is a deep stab. 'Arafat wants to stress to the Americans that he is committed to facilitating their initiative, that he is a man of good conduct, and that this necessitates the resumption of the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue. But in fact, 'Arafat has sold his people and cause.

The statement added that, having despaired of the renegades and traitors, we have no alternative but to address the Muslim Palestinian people and their revolutionary and struggling forces inside and outside the occupied homeland. It is they who will reject the Israeli occupation and the Arab regimes and who will make their historic decision of rejecting concessions and compromises. Hizballah pledges to remain loyal to this Islamic cause, which will remain the vanguard cause for which we will work, together with our brother strugglers from among the sons of the intifadah and other sincere forces in the Islamic and Arena arenas. We rely on God and take our guidance from the wise and firm leadership of the Islamic nation, represented by his eminence Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i. We stress that this phase requires cohesion, cooperation, and unification to defend a most sacred cause subjected to the most ferocious plot.

Hizballah Cites U.S. on Iraqi Nuclear Program

NC0310064891 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 3 Oct 91

[Text] Diplomatic sources have disclosed that U.S. intelligence has submitted to the White House information indicating that more than 500 Arab scientists have participated in building the Iraqi nuclear program and that most of these scientists are Egyptians, while the rest are Iraqis and Moroccans.

U.S. intelligence reports stress the gravity of the Iraqi nuclear program and the need to eliminate these Arab scientists so that they will not resume this nuclear program elsewhere. Meanwhile, the CIA has begun contacts with other intelligence agencies, especially with Israel's Mosad, to gather information on these Arab scientists. The Mosad has actually begun preparing lists of these scientists preliminary to liquidating them.

Al-Shar' Addresses UN General Assembly

JN0110172291 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1630 GMT 1 Oct 91

["Full recording" of Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar's address to 46th sesssion of the UN General Assembly in New York; date not given]

[Text] Mr. President: The major international developments since the mid-eighties reached a peak over the past few months, heralding a new era in contemporary political history. Although it is early to make conclusive judgments about the reasons for and long-term impact of these developments, it is clear that the main driving force behind them is the emergence of peoples' aspirations to attain their freedom, independence, and self-determination.

In this context, the world witnessed radical changes in the Eastern European countries, Germany reunited, and the three Baltic republics declared their independence. Changes are also continuing in the Soviet Union and Yugoslavia. If, in some republics, tension and violence not motivated by nationalist sentiments and the right to self-determination erupt, they, in fact, reflect frustration that the aspirations and hopes of these people, especially concerning their standard of living, have not been fulfilled.

At the national level, the lessons that can be learned from these major changes are that bread and freedom are two basic needs for the individual and the society; they are inseparable, and one cannot be sacrificed for the sake of the other. Balance between them is the essence of balance between man's material and spiritual needs, and is the pillar of social peace.

At the international level, the most important lesson to be learned is that a peoples' right to self-determination is a motivating force that cannot be curbed, and that foreign occupation is doomed to failure and must be terminated. Moreover, the principles of international law and legitimacy cannot be ignored or dealt with by double standards. World peace can be achieved only on these firm bases.

Syria, which is an important part of an ancient nation in terms of history and civilization and which has been facing perpetual aggression and occupation for several decades, sees in these international changes a historic opportunity to correct the wrong situation in our region, explain the distorted facts, regain the occupied land and the usurped rights, and contribute to efforts to bring about a just and comprehensive peace in this region.

Israel has exploited and encouraged the cold war to obtain the largest amount of military and economic aid in the history of relations among states, under the pretext of protecting Western interests from Soviet expansion and communist infiltration in the Middle East. U.S. aid to Israel alone exceeded the Marshall Plan aid to all of Europe. In return, the Arabs gained nothing from the cold war, in which they had no opinion, except more Israeli occupation of their territories and the establishment of Jewish settlements in them without any international deterrence.

The UN resolution equating Zionism with racism was issued as a result of Israel's occupation of the Arab territories and its continued persecution of and discrimination against Arabs in various walks of life. Any call for the cancellation of that resolution should come only as a result of the cancellation of the basic causes that prompted the United Nations to issue it. Such a cancellation requires the termination of Israeli occupation of the Arab territories and enabling the Palestinian people to enjoy their right to self-determination.

The Arabs, throughout their long history, have not exercised any form of racial discrimination against any of the ethnic or religious minorities. Jews have lived among Arab Muslims for hundreds of years during which they did not suffer from any form of racial or religious discrimination or persecution. On the contrary, they lived so respected that they preferred to leave Andalusia with the Arabs in the 15th century because they did not have the sense of security and equality outside the Arab environment.

The question urgently posed before us is: If the Arabs over their long history dealt with the Jews with this great forbearance, then let the world see the racism and oppression that befell the Arabs over Israel's short history.

Despite all this, the Arabs want peace. The world nations share this with them. The Arabs want the implementation of UN resolutions—nothing more, nothing less. The Israeli rulers, however, resist peace efforts with all their power and influence. Instead of adhering to the UN Charter and resolutions, to which they are indebted for their existence, they adhere to a barren ideology based on expansion and the deportation of Arabs, which plants the roots of hatred and spilling of blood in the region.

It is a strange paradox for Israel to ask the United States to finance the building of settlements in occupied Arab territory and at the same time allege that it wants peace. Peace and the usurpation of another people's land do not go together. Peace and the usurpation of other people's land do not go together. No doubt, this paradox will become clearer when the U.S. taxpayer realizes what the Israeli occupation has caused in terms of the deportation of half a million Syrians from Golan villages and towns without being able to return to them even today, as well as the presence of more than a quarter of a million Palestinian refugees in Syria, not to mention more than 2 million Palestinians in the diaspora who are still deprived of the freedom to return to their homes and possessions where their fathers and predecessors lived for centuries.

The question posed before us is: Is it equitable to continue to ignore the right of return to these Arab

deportees at a time when dense waves of Jewish immigrants are pushed at full speed to replace them and settle on land where neither their fathers nor their predecessors lived at any time in the past? Does this paradox not simply mean the adoption of double standards? It means more than that. Does this paradox not mean the adoption of racist concepts against the rights of Arab human beings?

The main obstacle to the peace process stems not only from the preconditions placed by Israel—regarding the Palestinian representation and the issue of occupied Arab Jerusalem—for participation in the peace conference, but also from Israel's narrow view of the post-cold war and post-Gulf war era.

Syria, together with the Arabs and the international community, believes that the post-cold war and post-Gulf war era has paved the road to peace and constitutes a historic opportunity to achieve a just and comprehensive settlement in the Middle East on the basis of international legitimacy, UN resolutions, and the nation's right to self-determination.

Israel, however, is exerting all its efforts to close the doors of peace, and to intensify settlement building, thereby exploiting the Soviet Jews' intensified immigration on one hand and the deep wound caused by the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait in the Arab fold on the other.

The Israeli prime minister's inauguration of a new settlement in the occupied territories last week and his announcement that settlement building will continue as far as the horizon is clear evidence of the reality of Israel's intentions to undermine the peace efforts.

We in Syria, under the leadership of President Hafiz al-Asad, are determined to wage the battle of peace to the end. There will neither be a retreat in our stand nor bargaining over our territories and rights. Our demands are legitimate; they are supported by international law and UN resolutions. Our cause is fair; it is supported by our people and the whole international community.

Mr. President: Lebanon's restoration of its national unity and constitutional institutions as well as a great deal of its security and normal life are a source of great satisfaction to the international community in general and to my country, Syria, in particular. Many world politicians believed, even until very recently, that Lebanon, which for 16 years was immersed in chaos, fighting, and bloodshed is a desperate case, so much so that the expression Lebanonize was used in the political lexicon for those difficult cases that could be faced by big or small countries in the world.

My country's cooperation with Lebanon, with which my country is bound with bonds of kinship, history, and common destiny, has been the essential factor that helped sisterly Lebanon bypass its ordeal and restore its health. Thus, Lebanon was able to play its role in both the Arab and international arenas.

What Lebanon needs now is serious support from the international community for the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 425 stipulating Israel's unconditional withdrawal from southern Lebanon and a contribution to the reconstruction of Lebanon.

On the situation in Afghanistan, we believe that national reconciliation encompassing all sectors of the Afghan people is considered the ideal means for reaching a solution acceptable by all parties to the dispute. In this vein, we welcome the efforts under way to find a comprehensive political settlement in accordance with the recent UN General Assembly resolution, the secretary general's proposals, and the recent Soviet-U.S. statement.

Regarding Cyprus, Syria, which has historical relations of friendship with this neighboring country, supports the UN secretary general's efforts and peaceful initiatives aimed at convening an international conference on Cyprus made up of concerned parties in order to bring about a solution to the Cypriot crisis based on UN resolutions and in a way that guarantees the country's unity, independence, and territorial integrity, taking into consideration the interests of all its people.

As regards the situation in South Africa, the positive things that have so far been achieved still do not live up to the expectations of the people of South Africa. Therefore, the international community is asked to continue applying pressure on the Pretoria regime until all semblances of racial discrimination are removed to allow the people of the country to practice their right to self-determination.

Mr. President: The nations of the world are pinning great hopes on the United Nations, especially after the recent international changes and the end of the cold war. These nations are hoping that the end of the cold war will signal the end of the state of paralysis from which our international organization has suffered.

My country also believes that the charter and principles of the United Nations constitute a guarantee for maintaining international peace and security and putting an end to occupation and aggression. For the new world order to be a just order and to express the aspirations of our people, it must take place within the framework of the United Nations and according to its principles and charter. We continue to hope for a better future in which all world nations can enjoy freedom, justice, prosperity, and peace. Thank you.

Press Sees Need for Unified Arab Stance

JN0210073591 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 2 Oct 91

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Who Will End Israel's Approach That Rejects Peace," AL-BA'TH says: There is no doubt that the attitude toward Israel in some

countries has somewhat changed as a result of Israel's stands that reject the peace process. This change, however, has not yielded any noteworthy outcome. The reason for this is that this change of attitude has not taken into consideration the fact that Israel has been, and will remain, the greatest danger to peace in the region, as well as the whole world.

The paper goes on to say: Instead of being confronted internationally, we have noticed recently that Israel is trying through its diverse, widespread media organs to hold the Arabs responsible for the stalemate in the peace process, even though it has become certain that Israel not only wants to destroy the peace conference, but is also actively engaging itself in Judaizing the occupied Arab territories and displacing their native inhabitants. At the same time, Israel is continuing preparations, according to some international reports, for a new military action to assassinate the very idea of peace.

AL-BA'TH adds: True, the international community is now convinced that Israel is the obstacle to a just and comprehensive peace. Until now, however, we have not sensed any vital and effective trend to put an end to the Israeli arrogance and approach, which is diametrically opposed to the changes in our world, given that the leaders of major world powers have emphasized the need for a world free of all threats.

AL-BA'TH concludes: If this Israeli stance toward peace proposals remains unchanged, then it is illogical that the Arabs should endorse documents that eventually mean only their relinquishment of their legitimate national and pan-Arab rights, for which they have made huge sacrifices over the long years of the conflict with the usurping Zionist entity.

On the same topic, AL-THAWRAH says: There is now a greater need to hold consultations and deliberations among Arab leaders so as to intensify efforts to shape a unified Arab stance prior to the convening of the international Middle East peace conference, called for by U.S. President George Bush and Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev during their recent summit in Moscow. Pan-Arab needs and the intertwined developments in the region and the world require accelerating the formulation of this unified stance now and establishing it on a solid base of solidarity by the five Arab parties that are directly concerned with the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Palestine question: Syria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, and Palestine.

The paper adds: The only sound way for a serious search and immediate action to determine the foundations of the required unified Arab stance at this stage in particular is by intensifying consultations on all levels so as to achieve permanent coordination among the five parties concerned with the Arab-Israeli conflict. This is meant to face the malicious plots and malevolent spite concocted by Israeli circles against everything related to launching the peace process in accordance with the U.S. proposals, which depend on the resolutions of international legitimacy, primarily Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

Government Employees Dismissed for 'Dishonesty'

JN0210153091 Damascus AL-BA'TH in Arabic 24 Sep 91 pp 1, 11

[Excerpt] Damascus (SANA)—The specialized authorities have issued new decisions calling for the dismissal of a number of government employees, based on reports submitted by the Central Body for Inspection and Observation, on charges of dishonesty or misconduct. [passage omitted]

Afghanistan

Minister Interviewed on Food Supply Situation

BK0310024691 Hong Kong AFP in English 0158 GMT 3 Oct 91

[By Anil Penna]

[Text] Kabul, Oct 3 (AFP)—Faced with a drop in the Soviet supplies which have kept it afloat for more than a decade, the Afghan Government has turned to the private sector to build a winter food and fuel buffer.

As the first snow in the nearby Paghman hills signals the approach of winter, the government is frantically roping in entrepreneurs to bring in supplies to ward off potential shortages.

No sense of panic is, however, visible in this capital city of 1.5 million people, where the principal worry is spiraling prices rather than scarcities.

Grocery shops are full, after the government last month dipped into its reserves to supply the markets with 684 tons of wheat, 1,255 tons of flour, peas, potatoes and onions in a bid to reassure residents worried by the Soviet cutbacks.

Food Minister Anwar Dost, in an interview with AFP, refused to reveal the size of the reserves, which he admitted were being used to make up for shortfalls.

In September, Kabul for the first time signed contracts with private traders to arrange food supplies, he said. Two traders were contracted to import 300,000 tons of Australian and European wheat at 180 dollars per ton—10 dollars more than the market price.

After paying transportation costs, the traders stand to make a profit of five dollars per ton.

The government also signed a protocol with the Soviet republic of Kazakhstan last month for 50,000 tons of wheat aid in return for 1,500 tons of tea that India is giving gratis. Kabul is also expecting 1,500 tons of beef from New Delhi, and has stepped up efforts to procure supplies from Afghan provinces while looking to do more business with such Soviet republics as Armenia and Uzbekisan, Dost said. Informed sources said private dealers had also been contracted to procure 170,000 tons of fuel from Soviet Turkmenia and Siberia, to be bartered for such Afghan staples as wool, animal skins and dried fruits.

"Our main problem is with delivery schedules," said Dost, who has been food minister for the past 15 months.

"If the consignments arrive on time, we will have no difficulties during the winter. But we cannot guarantee that the situation will be easy."

Moscow has in the past sustained Kabul with generous handouts of food and fuel, but its largess has diminished because of severe domestic shortages.

The Soviet Union was to give Kabul 230,000 tons of wheat during the year, but has so far delivered only half that quantity, Dost said.

Other officials said a daily average of around 100 tons of Soviet food supplies was coming in, compared to the pledged 500 tons.

The first consignments promised by private traders are expected to arrive in October, and the Kazakh wheat aid in November, said Dost, adding that the government had decided to turn to the private sector because "it has better influence than the government" with suppliers.

Observers pointed out that private traders, unlike the cash-strapped government, had good access to hard currency—mainly from Pakistan, where electronic and other consumer goods "re-exported" from here enjoy a ready market.

"If the private sector does not cooperate at this critical hour, the government would be in trouble," a foreign diplomat said.

"It is not exactly easy for the traders either. Bringing in such large quantities is cumbersome and there are transportation difficulties to contend with," he said.

For bringing the wheat from the source of supply to Moscow, then Heiraton and finally to Kabul by road, the government would pay traders in Afghanis, which are freely convertible in Kabul's money bazaar at around 1,000 to one U.S. dollar.

Dost and Mohammad Urfan, president of the department which fixes prices for primary goods, admitted the price situation was worrying.

A kilogram of mutton costs around 2,000 Afghanis, rice 700 Afghanis and a five-kilogram tin of cooking oil 5,000 Afghanis, in a country where the rate of inflation is officially put at 30 percent.

"That is less than what the rate of inflation is in Turkey, for example, but our problem is that our incomes are small," said Dost.

A gallon of petrol costs 4,000 Afghanis and diesel half that amount.

The average monthly pay for a low-level government servant is (?1000) Afghanis, 8,000 less than Dost's salary.

Officials said fuel stocks were adequate for winter unless fighting between government forces and the mojahedin resistance picked up, but such reassurances are small comfort for the city's hard-pressed citizens.

Government servants are better off because they are subsidised by rations—modest quantities of wheat or flour, sugar, tea and washing soap—but even they feel the pinch.

"We have become used to living at the subsistence level," said a low-ranking civil servant. "We can't even stockpile for the winter because we cannot afford it."

Dost said he managed to make both ends meet by teaching two days a week at Kabul University's economics faculty, earning an additional 8,000 Afghanis a month.

"If we get to eat meat two days a month, that is a luxury," the minister said. "We Afghans are used to it now. We get tea and bread, that is enough."

The government, observers said, seemed to have the situation in hand, but would have to practise a little belt-tightening of its own.

"With a little bit of luck and a dose of austerity, they should pull through," the diplomatic observer said. "At least, they are trying."

India

Restoration of Islands From Sri Lanka Sought

BK0310092091 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 3 Oct 91

[Text] The Tamil Nadu legislative assembly has unanimously passed an official resolution requesting the center to seek the restoration of Kachchaitivu islands from Sri Lanka. The official resolution seeks to justify the demand on the grounds that Sri Lanka has violated the 1974 India-Sri Lankan agreement on sea boundary which recognizes the traditional fishing rights of the Indian fishermen in the vicinity of the islands. It points out that the Sri Lankan Navy killed 50 fishermen in Tamil Nadu and injured 57, besides destroying 51 boats, between the period 1983 and August 1991. The resolution appeals to the center to seek immediate adequate compensation from Sri Lanka for the affected families.

Cambodian Prime Minister Arrives in New Delhi

BK0310053691 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 3 Oct 91

[Text] The Cambodian prime minister, Mr. Hun Sen, has said that elections in his country may be held toward the end of next year or early 1993. He was talking to newspersons in New Delhi this morning soon after his arrival on a three-day visit. Mr. Hun Sen said India has a great role to play in the political settlement and economic reconstruction of Cambodia. He was received at the airport by the minister of state for external affairs, Mr. Eduardo Faleiro. During his stay, Mr. Sen will meet the president, the vice president, the prime minister and the chief election commissioner.

Central Government Secretaries Reshuffled

BK0210144691 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 2 Oct 91

[Text] There has been a reshuffle of secretaries at the center. Mr. M.D. Godbole is the new home secretary and the present incumbent Mr. R.K. Bhargav goes to the ministry of urban development. Mr. K.P. Geeta Krishnan, presently secretary, department of expenditure takes over finance and revenue. While the commerce secretary, Mr. Montague Singh Aluwalia gets the department of economic affairs, Mr. K.V.R. Nayar is shifted to the department of expenditure from the Ministry of Food Processing Industries. He will be succeeded by Mr. M.M.S. Shrivastav, who is on leave at present.

Student Protests Against Job Reservation Continue

BK0110162091 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 1 Oct 91

[Text] The Supreme Court has adjourned the hearing on the Mandal Commission reservation case till the 31st of this month and decided in principle to refer it to a larger nine-judge constitution bench. It also ruled today that the stay on the implementation of the orders of August last year on 27 percent reservation for the backward classes will continue. The five-judge constitution bench headed by the chief justice, Mr. Justice Ranganath Mishra, directed the union government to inform the court by the 31st of this month about the new criteria for identification of socially, educationally, and economically backward classes. The bench observed that formal orders referring the case to the nine-judge bench will be issued in due course.

Reports of damaging of public property and obstruction to road traffic have come in from some cities as a section of students continued their protests against the center's reservation policy. In Himachal Pradesh, passengers were stranded at many places because of stone throwing at buses. In Uttar Pradesh, the antireservation activists damaged public property at some places. The Orissa chief minister, Mr. Biju Patnaik, has announced the closure of all educational institutions in the state from today. In Delhi, there were some incidents of stone throwing on buses.

Iran

Kuwaiti Clarifications on Treaty Received

JN0210182991 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 2 Oct 91

[Muhammad Sadiq al-Husayni dispatch from Tehran]

[Text] As Iranian media continue to express concern over the Kuwaiti-American Defense and Security Cooperation Treaty, Iranian parliamentary circles say that Iranian Foreign Minister Velayati, who met with the Kuwaiti amir in New York last week, returned to Tehran

with Kuwaiti clarifications, which the Iranian leadership had requested from the Kuwaiti Government with regard to the treaty.

The Iranian foreign minister, who had just arrived from the UN General Assembly meetings, held a lengthy meeting with the members of the Foreign Affairs Committee at the Islamic Consultative Assembly to brief them on his activities at the United Nations, especially his meeting with the amir of Kuwait and with the Gulf Cooperation Council states.

On the other hand, informed circles in Tehran say that the Iranian leadership, which received Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad's envoy during the Holy defense week held in Iran, marking the anniversary of the outbreak of the first battles in the Iranian-Iraqi war, listened to the Syrian viewpoint on the U.S.-Kuwaiti treaty despite the protocol and ceremonial nature which characterized the Syrian envoy's visit.

The Iranian press cited a statement by Lieutenant General Hikmat al-Shihabi at Tehran's airport in which he stated that his country condemns the U.S.-Kuwaiti treaty, and that it rejects the presence of foreign forces in the Gulf region. This statement was regarded by observers here as the first of its kind by a senior Syrian official after the Gulf war.

For his part, the head of the Syrian diplomatic mission in Tehran, Ambassador Ahmad al-Hasan, said in an exclusive statement to our radio station that it is true that his country objects to the presence of any foreign forces in any Arab land; however, Damascus will struggle with all sincere forces to remove the abnormal circumstances which lead to the advent of these forces to the region.

India Offers Tehran Nuclear Research Reactor

LD0210140991 Tehran IRNA in English 1338 GMT 2 Oct 91

[Text] New Delhi, Oct. 2, IRNA—India is offering to Iran, a nuclear research reactor of 10 megawatt capacity. The threads of the offer, finalised earlier this year, after an exchange of visits by atomic energy officials of both countries, is to be picked up, now that the Iranian deputy foreign minister, Alaeddin Borujerdi, is here on a three-day visit to India. 'THE ECONOMIC TIMES', New Delhi, reporting this, further said: Defence and economic cooperation will form the basis of a new relationship between India and Iran, which are to be concretised during the deputy minister's visit.

The contours of the new relationships were also discussed at a meeting between the Indian foreign minister, Madhavrao Solanki, and his Iranian counterpart, 'Ali Akbar Velayati, in New York, about a week ago. India is currently considering Iran's request for arms, made after the visit of a defence team from Tehran, in April this year. Iran has also sought Indian help in building a pressurised heavy water reactor. Cooperation in the field of nuclear energy is being discussed within the framework for the creation of an Indo- Iranian nuclear agreement. A team from Iran's Atomic Energy Organisation visited India in February, this year, when it made the request for the reactor.

India's nuclear establishment proposed, that a 10 mw research reactor should be offered to Iran. Iran is understood to be keen on developing a long-term defence relationship with India. The three- day state visit by the deputy foreign minister is a pointer in that direction. Alauddin Borujerdi, the deputy foreign minister, arrived here Tuesday night, carrying a message of President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, for prime minister Narasimha Rao of India.

Implications of U.S. Bases in Kuwait Viewed

NC3009165391 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 19 Sep 91 p 16

[Column by Dr. Mohammad Javad Larijani, adviser to the Foreign Ministry: "Weekly Political Newsletter—The Persian Gulf and its Hardships"]

[Text] 1. What is the "political" meaning of a U.S. base on Kuwaiti soil? What military advantage would it have? In view of the fact that the United States already has other bases in the region, such as in Oman and Bahrain, these questions assume an even greater importance.

The dimensions of the new U.S. base in Kuwait are in no way comparable to the United States' previous facilities. The new base covers a vast area of land and will have logistical capabilities among others, such as those for launching air, land, and sea attacks. The United States will also be able to use the facilities for operations other than those pertaining to Kuwait's security!

2. The most important political implication of the new U.S. base is that the United States wants to personally assume the role of the region's policeman. This is most certainly an integral part of the current U.S. Mideast policy. The Persian Gulf base, Turkey, and Israel are the three pillars which will form the foundation for the new structure of U.S. domination in the Middle East.

3. The region's wealth is being pillaged in a most despicable and scandalous manner. The oil-plunderers of the region will pay for the construction of the bases, both officially and in practice, and the useless weapons of the United States—which are being discarded all over the world—will be stockpiled in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and the UAE [United Arab Emirates] and will be purchased by them at exorbitant prices using their oil income! What is even more disastrous is that the losses sustained by the United States and other countries during the Kuwait war will be paid for by Iraqi oil sales!

4. It is now clearer than ever why the United States is in no hurry to replace Saddam in Iraq. Of course, I am using the word "replace" with a sense of shame and regret. I would like to ask why the Muslims and the Iraqi

nation should find themselves in a situation where the United States is deciding the future of the Baghdad government.

By keeping Saddam, the United States has consolidated its presence and domination in the region. The humiliating agreements imposed on oppressed Iraq have been further implemented to enable the United States to continue its pillage of the region at an even more accelerated pace. One should now ask: Is there anything left that requires Saddam's presence?

5. In my opinion, one pillar of the U.S. Mideast policy has been left incomplete, and, therefore, until it has been completed, the United States will probably prefer to keep the half-alive Saddam in Baghdad. The pillar that remains unfinished is the organic [preceding word in English] fusion of all three pillars of U.S. domination in the Middle East: the Persian Gulf-Israeli axis, the Turkish-Israeli axis, and the relations of both with the United States.

President Meets With Finance Minister, Officials

NC0210124991 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 2 Oct 91

[Text] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani has met with Minister of Economy and Finance Mohsen Nurbakhsh and with the deputy ministers, directors, and officials of the ministry. In his remarks he stated that paying taxes is a religious, national, and natural duty for successful national reconstruction.

The president said information in receiving taxes is of great significance and that the world's modern systems should be used for this. Hashemi-Rafsanjani also pointed to the need for broadening private and public sector activities as much as possible so that the country's economic and production programs can progress.

On the stock exchange and other private sector economic activities, he stated: We have been successful in these fields to a great extent, and today we are witnessing more activities by the people, which is a manifestation of their trust.

The president added: At Tehran's international fair, we talked with a number of industrialists and production forces. They were very excited and energetic. They were happy and did not have any worries.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani described customs and banking activities as good and said: Many past problems have been overcome. The president also stated: With the potentials and immense resources in Iran, we hope our country will achieve the economic and industrial progress it deserves within a logical time frame.

Before Hashemi-Rafsanjani made his remarks, the minister of economic affairs and finance briefed the president on his ministry's activities in the banking and financial fields, as well as on the successes in customs affairs.

Kuwait Interested in Forming Joint Shipping Fleet

LD0310015791 Tehran IRNA in English 0711 GMT 2 Oct 91

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 2, IRNA—Iran and Kuwait are interested in establishing a joint shipping fleet, visiting Kuwaiti Minister of Commerce and Industry 'Abdallah Hasan al-Jad and his Iranian counterpart 'Abdol Hoseyn Vahaji said in a meeting here Tuesday.

In the meeting which took place at the sideline of the 17th Tehran international trade fair opened on Tuesday, the two sides also agreed to participate at fairs to be held in Iran and Kuwait.

Vahaji stressed the need for provision of the necessary visa facilities for the Iranian nationals who wish to visit Kuwait with the aim to promote the level of bilateral exchanges.

The Kuwaiti minister is currently here to visit the Tehran fair which will be open till October 12.

Mohtashami on Council of Guardians, Elections

NC2609110791 Tehran JAHAN-E ESLAM in Persian 7 Sep 91 p 7

[Report on question and answer session with Tehran Majles Deputy 'Ali Akbar Mohtashami by unidentified people at Narmak mosque in Tehran—date not given]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] Answering a question on the Council of Guardians' interpretation of the supervision of elections, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Mohtashami said:

Article 99 of the Constitution states that the Council of Guardians should supervise all elections and referenda in the Majles, the Assembly of Experts, presidential elections, etc...

The Islamic Majles has approved the electoral laws on calling for elections, the limits of the government's jurisdiction in the executive branch, and the Council of Guardians' supervision. The legal procedure was followed in the three rounds of previous elections.

The Council of Guardians' interpretation of Article 99, however, lets it express its opinions on the candidates' qualifications. If it wished to act as in the past, the executive committee, mostly deputies trusted by the people, along with the 11 Interior Ministry officials, eight trusted representatives and a governor, the head of the registrar's office, and one from the Judiciary. [sentence as published]

These 11 people—the executive committee—assess the records of individuals nominated as candidates. The records are sent to the Information Ministry, the Judiciary, and the law enforcement forces who check the credentials. The applicant is rejected if he has had links with counter-revolutionaries, SAVAK [the shah's Information and Intelligence Organization], grouplets, or groups abroad. Rejected candidates can appeal to the Council of Guardians which will reconsider the assessment. If it feels that the executive committee has unjustly rejected the candidate, it will re-endorse his candidacy in accordance with the Council of Guardians' laws.

That has been the procedure to date. Under the new interpretation, the Council of Guardians will reassess even those who have been endorsed by the executive committee, and reject them if it sees fit. This violates the Constitution and procedure until now. However, the Council of Guardians insists that there have been cases when it has rejected candidates endorsed by the Interior Ministry and the executive committee. Candidates had been rejected by the Council of Guardians in the past but their rejections were not implemented, as in the case of Mr. Khalkhali. [passage omitted]

[Question] Following the statement by the eminent leader of the revolution on the need to support the government, anti-government attacks have increased, particularly in the latest edition of BAYAN. You consider yourself a follower of the leadership. How do you justify this? Do you not have responsibility for everything that is printed?

[Mohtashami] If one is the proprietor or editor in chief of a publication, he is responsible for its contents whether he likes it or not. No one will accept it if the proprietor or editor says he is not responsible for the contents of his magazine or newspaper, unless there is a specific writer who takes responsibility for his writing. On weakening or strengthening the government, I believe that if one mentions a weakness or something objectionable, he is not undermining the government but strengthening it. [passage omitted]

We say that prices are spiraling. Even if you give us statistics which might be correct, there are some experts who wish to bring the country to an impasse. Unfortunately, our officials are manipulated by them. A handful of people who have been in the Plan and Budget Organization since the previous regime keep harping about the old issues. There are also some counter-revolutionary types, like Mo'infar—the poisonous snakes and vipers of the Nehzat-e Azadi [Freedom Movement opposition party] are the real brains in these departments—who do all the planning while the Supreme Planning Council merely makes a few routine remarks and signs on the dotted line. These people are young, inexperienced, and easily influenced.

My contention is that you who keep citing examples of Europe and Japan do not consider that when prices rise in those countries, so do wages.

Prices have never risen more than wages in those countries in the mind-boggling way they have risen here. You do not see a person carrying a sack of currency to buy a kilogram of cheese. [In real terms] it still costs the 20 Deutsche marks it did before prices rose. Income has risen with prices. If they devalue their currency, they raise the wages and salaries proportionately. You have devalued the rial by 1,000 percent, but you have raised wages by only 30 percent. You claim that the inflation rate is only 9 percent and that you have raised salaries by 30 percent. Consider this: The dollar, which was equal to 70 rials, is now worth 1,400 rials and in some places the rate is 700 rials. You have reduced the rial to a twentieth of its value. [passage omitted]

You admit that an annual income of 26,000 tumans represents the poverty line. Thus, to be just, we should increase wages 10 to 20 times so that people can make ends meet. You say that prices had decreased and the markets are full of inexpensive goods.

What is inexpensive? Perhaps some goods are cheaper on the free market. You have reduced people's purchasing power by 80 percent. A person who stands in line for four pieces of iron girders priced at 53 rials a kilogram would wait for a year before he gets his girders so that he can construct two rooms to live in. He has to wait for cement at 100 to 200 rials a bag. In short, with 300,000 tumans he will be able to make a little shack. Today, you say, everything is on the free market. Iron girders are 400 rials a kilogram; cement is 1,000-1,200 rials on the free market; and 50 to 60 percent of the people cannot build a house with 300,000 tumans. Without the purchasing power, 80 percent of the buyers are eliminated, the iron girders and cement saturate the market, and black-market rates fall. To whose benefit? (To be continued)

RESALAT Calls For Trimming Bureaucracy

NC0110212791 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 19 Sep 91 p 1

[Editorial by Seyyed Morteza Nabavi: "Court Mentality"]

[Excerpts] Why are the country's budget and the people's assets being spent on creating a multiplicity of organizations and establishments? You will answer: "For the sake of easing and expediting" the people's work. The administrative system priciple is to prevent work from getting bogged down.

If, in any given society, each person works as he wishes without any regard for the rules of his unit or any coordination with the common centers, that society's work will become chaotic and the people will become utterly confused.

The administrative establishments, however, are not "ends" in themselves. They will not perform better if they are more extensive and labyrinthine, nor will a department be more efficient if it has a larger budget that it squanders on seminars, luxurious buildings, skyscrapers, and Mercedes Benz, Toyota, and Peugeot vehicles, buses, minibuses, and vans in an aim to project a more attractive image.

Another common misconception is if a country's manpower numbers in the millions and the government's apparatus is extensive and costly, this apparatus will be more prestigious. Similarly, if the government has managers who indulge in ostentation and formalities, it will be a source of salvation for them in this world and the hereafter.

From the economic point of view, every department should produce positive results with a minimum of expenditure. A department should provide greater services if it requires greater expenditure. [passage omitted]

Do our departments make it easier for our people to perform their tasks at the lowest possible cost for the nation? Are present administrative establishments performing the work of the people with "ease, speed and contentment" and making the nation happy and grateful? Or is the behemoth bureaucracy complicating all projects and retarding their completion while guzzling down funds?

Do the vast administrative establishments inspire trust and hope or motivate our people? Are the people, and even the employees of these establishments themselves, happy with this administrative system?

Do our current rules and regulations make things easier, or do they complicate projects even further? Are the installations appropriate for society's needs, or are they more extensive than necessary? Are the number of employees in the offices appropriate for efficient operations, or is it needlessly excessive, yielding a force with a minimum of specialization and continually diminishing returns?

It has been said that the Eastern superpower put an end to this type of bureaucracy because it was not useful, was too expensive, too extensive, and slow and frustrating—which pleased neither the employees nor the people.

Yes. This "behemoth" can cause the people to become disenchanted with the system and can undermine it. The government and the Majles must find agreement and cooperate to combat this situation. If the Majles does not give the government the necessary power to achieve this, or if it displays any opposition, then the struggle will be much more difficult tomorrow.

If the government continues to procrastinate, our problems will double. The Supreme Administrative Council has taken some steps in the right direction, but it is not following a coordinated program.

This "behemoth" should be tackled at its roots so that all the people will be able to feel this spell being broken.

Daily Warns of U.S. Influence in Muslim USSR

NC0310075191 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 17 Sep 91 pp 1,2

[Editorial: "Baker in Alma Ata!"]

[Text] During his visits to Russia and Lithuania, U.S. Secretary of State Baker also visited Alma Ata, the center of Kazakhstan, where he met and talked with Nur Soltan Nazarbayev.

It is not accidental that the American secretary of state is visiting Alma Ata under the current conditions in the Soviet Union. Kazakhstan is one of the largest and most important Muslim republics in the Soviet Union. According to state statistics, more than 16 million Muslims live there and part of the industrial and arms centers of the Soviet Union also are based there. Furthermore, because of its special geographic position, Kazakhstan has considerable strategic importance and possibly can play a special role in the new world order.

On the other hand, Baker—as the lower part of the body of America's political administration, the upper part being Bush—attaches great importance to the republics currently under Russian occupation. It is natural that he is trying to pave the way for American interests in these republics in the future. It is within this context that Baker's visit to Alma Ata should be analyzed by the Islamic world and especially by the Islamic Republic of Iran, which is the southern neighbor of many of the republics and also is the base of the Islamic world.

America is trying to intervene politically, culturally, economically, and so forth in the various Soviet republics, and especially in the Muslim republics, not only with Baker's visit but through other means as well. Visits to these republics by delegations from Saudi Arabia, the announcement by Saudi merchants that they are ready to invest in these republics, and the recent appointment of an expert of Turkish origin as Azerbaijani President Ayaz Mutalibov's economic adviser are among the other steps being taken by the minions of America with a gesture from it and within the framework of the interests of the great satan.

Moreover, Zionist activities in many republics, namely in the Muslim republics and especially in the Republic of Azerbaijan, in the form of setting up various offices and establishing an air link through El Al for transferring Jews from these republics to occupied Palestine, are among the other steps which Islamic countries should consider, especially the Islamic Republic of Iran. These two efforts, which are being carried out rapidly and very persistently, constitute a serious threat to the future of the Muslim republics of the Soviet Union and, as a result, to the Islamic world and especially the Islamic Republic of Iran.

So far, the Islamic countries not dependent on America have not taken significant steps to establish relations with the Muslim republics or even to collect precise information on the situation in these republics. While the American secretary of state has come from the other side of the world to visit Alma Ata, the center of Kazakhstan, not even one Islamic foreign minister has travelled to any of these republics. The Americans have been interested in infiltrating the Muslim republics of the Soviet Union for a long time. In the past, however, they were never able to travel to any part of the vast Soviet Union without permission from the Kremlin and the KGB. Today, to travel to Alma Ata, the American secretary of state does not need permission from the Kremlin. He even looks into the closets of the KGB when he is in Moscow and he also propounds plans to Kremlin officials on how to Americanize the Soviet Army.

Revolutionary forces should not be intimidated by American bullying in the emergence of this situation. America is rotten from inside more than one can imagine, and it has only the form of a superpower. If Islamic resistance cells resort to a calculated organization and to careful plans to deal with America, definitely in the near future we will witness the disintegration of the Western camp as well. The present age is the age of the rule of nations, and if the statesmen of the Islamic countries and the Third World do not display the necessary competence and intelligence, this reality will not materialize.

Commentary Praises OPEC 'Solidarity' at Meeting

NC0110155091 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0445 GMT 1 Oct 91

[Central News Unit Research Group commentary]

[Text] Petroleum Minister Aqazdeh has described the OPEC price monitoring committee's session as successful. He also said that, for the first time, the OPEC crude oil production ceiling is lower than the demand for this oil, thus giving the oil market satisfactory stability.

During the OPEC petroleum minister's session on 24 and 25 September in Vienna, which included the organization's 13 members, the ministers agreed on a production ceiling of 23.65 million barrels a day at a price of $21 per barrel for the last three months of 1991. Before this session, the major oil producers of the organization had different views on supply and demand; for example, Saudi Arabia insisted that the production ceiling be 24 million barrels per day and that its own production be 8.5 million barrels per day—3 million barrels more than the quantity it was producing before the Persian Gulf crisis. Had this been approved, the possibility of oil prices reaching $21 would have been extremely slim.

Meanwhile, Iran and some other OPEC members said that the production ceiling should be viewed within the context of achieving the desired price. A sentence was added to the Islamic Republic of Iran's proposal in OPEC's final communique, which said that OPEC believes that the 23.65 million barrels per day production ceiling will bring prices to at least $21, and that, if this does not happen, the OPEC secretary general should call the OPEC petroleum ministers for an emergency meeting.

Currently Kuwait is producing only 180,000 barrels per day instead of the 1.5 million barrels per day it was exporting before the Persian Gulf crisis. The UN Security Council recently gave Iraq permission to export 500,000 barrels of oil a day. It seems, therefore, that demand for OPEC oil will be higher than supply during the last three months of 1991, and it is possible that prices will reach $21 per barrel.

It should be noted that Kuwait's third request from the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council for an assistance of 800,000 barrels of oil per day has been rejected. According to the Kuwaiti petroleum minister, the country's economy is in chaos; Kuwait has not been producing or exporting oil for more than a year, and it has spent all its financial resources on repairing the oil wells damaged by the fires, extinguishing fires, and reconstructing Kuwait.

Despite an unfavorable approach by one of its members, on the whole OPEC was able to formulate a positive agreement on the world oil market. The OPEC members are well aware that fluctuations in oil prices have had negative impacts on the oil-producing countries' balances of payment, economic development programs, and investments in development and progress, especially over the past few years. Each dollar that the oil price falls inflicts about $9 billion in losses on these countries every year.

In conclusion, we should also point out that, on its 31st anniversary, OPEC has shown that it is striving to coordinate its interests with those of its member countries and that it has been carefully assessing the international oil market. The agreement reached during the recent OPEC session also shows its unity and solidarity, which will play a determining role in achieving the long-term interests of OPEC's members.

'Grand Ayatollah' Addresses Religious Seminaries

NC0310162191 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 19 Sep 91 p 4

["Text" of message by Grand Ayatollah Mohammad Reza Musavi-Golpayegani to religious seminaries on the new academic year, issued on 14 September; place not given]

[Excerpts] In the name of God the almighty.

I am very grateful that God almighty has granted me the opportunity, with the favors of the hidden imam, may

our souls be sacrificed for him, to announce the commencement of the new academic year in the religious seminaries.

Even though I intended to begin the deliberations I am currently not able to participate due to my continuing illness. I, therefore, believe it is necessary to explain some points. [passage omitted]

The vacuum that has been created with the disintegration of communism and the fact that communists cannot rule human societies, and the vacuum that will be created in the near future when, God willing, capitalism will be overthrown should be filled by Islam. This goal can only be achieved through the devoted efforts of the religious seminaries by granting their students the gems of knowledge and virtue.

The objective of some individuals who come to religious seminaries is not to ensure their materialistic and economic interests or to rack up luxuries. From the very beginning, these people have aimed their efforts at teaching theology; at pleasing the imam of the ages, may God hasten his advent; at serving Islam; at spreading the word of God and guiding the people. Suffering all kinds of hardships and worldly deprivations in return for these lofty objectives is an easy task. Materialistic interests prevent some from achieving these objectives. We should always recall the virtues of our worthy predecessor who suffered great sacrifices and hardships to continue this science. [passage omitted]

I ask their eminences the scholars, may God prolong their lives, to do their best to train the mojtaheds [doctors of theology], the jurisconsults, and the researchers in the various fields of Islamic sciences so that the movement of the seminaries toward educational and research goals will be accelerated and shortages be overcome.

The good disposition, behavior, and purity of a scholar in his teaching methods and in the way he puts forth his views on problems are things that are more or less reflected in the students. [passage omitted]

In conclusion, I pray to God almighty to keep this religious seminary, on which not only Shiites but all Muslims are pinning their hopes, immune from harm and from deceits by the satans of the age and to add upon the successes of the scholars and the dear students each day. The lofty objective and intention behind the training of 'ulemas, jurisconsults, authors, and orators is to serve the divine religion of Islam, to guide the people, and to propagate the word of Islam and the main objective of all those who have a part in the religious seminaries is to carry out their duties in the best and most humble way possible. I pray to God that the al-Najaf religious seminary which has been the base of theological knowledge and teachings for 1,000 years will be freed from the wicked and infidel Ba'th Party with the help of Muhammad and his pure scion, praise be upon them. My last invocation is that praise be to God, father of the universe.

[Date] 5 Rabi' al-Awwal 1412 [14 September 1991]

[Signed] Mohammad Reza al-Musavi al-Golpayegani.

President Hails Red Crescent Society Activities

LD0310013991 Tehran IRNA in English 1353 GMT 2 Oct 91

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 2, IRNA—International relief organizations have hailed the Iranian relief centers including the Red Crescent Society for their skillful activities over the past three years, President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani said here today.

Addressing managers of the Red Crescent Society, the president praised their efforts in treating the Iraqi refugees in Iran.

"Every country in the world declares a public mibilization when faced with only several thousands refugees; however, our Red Crescent in cooperation with the government and people kindly received millions of Afghan, Iraqi and Kuwaiti refugees," said the president, noting that a considerable number of Iraqi refugees are still being supported by the Red Crescent.

Rafsanjani also thanked the Red Crescent for its activities abroad, and said the mere presence of the Crescent in other countries in the time of earthquakes or floods is praiseworthy.

Meanwhile, head of the society Seifollah Vahid-Dastjerdi said the Iranian Red Crescent is one of the 140 members of the League of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

The Iranian Red Crescent Society occupies the second place after the United States in terms of possibilities and relief services, Vahid-Dastjerdi said. He quoted the league's secretary general as saying in his recent remarks in Syria that Iran's Red Crescent is even more active than the league itself.

Vahid-Dastjerdi also said that 400,000 students throughout the country have been organized by the Red Crescent's youth organization, whose number he said is planned to increase to four million in the future.

Pakistan

Ministers Call For Early Intra-Afghan Dialogue

BK0210160491 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 2 Oct 91

[Text] The foreign ministers of the Islamic countries have approved a draft resolution on Afghanistan, calling for an early start of an intra-Afghan dialogue for the establishment of a broad-based government in Kabul. The text of the resolution, which was drafted by Pakistan in consultation with the Soviet Union, calls for the cessation of hostilities and creation of peaceful conditions in the country to enable millions of refugees living

in Pakistan and Iran to return to their homes. The only new element in the resolution is that it supports the UN secretary general's 21 May Afghan peace plan. The five-point UN peace plan has underscored the need for a cease-fire among warring factions and for interim arrangements to hold elections in the country. The resolution also urges the UN secretary general to make arrangements to aid an early settlement of this problem under the Geneva accord.

Addressing the meeting, Pakistan's minister of state for foreign affairs said Islamabad is striving for a peaceful solution to this issue, but the Kabul regime is constantly creating obstacles to it. The Kabul regime's intransigence is the greatest impediment to a comprehensive settlement acceptable to the people of that country. He said so long as the Kabul regime remains in power, a political solution to the Afghan problem is not possible.

Spokesman on Gulf Security, Afghanistan, Borders

BK0210153791 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 2 Oct 91

[Text] Pakistan has again stated that the security of the Gulf region is the sole responsibility of the Gulf countries, and Pakistan will not become a member of any (?grouping) concerning the region's security because it is striving to promote bilateral relations with all countries of the region. This was stated by a Foreign Office spokesman in Islamabad today.

Answering a question about the U.S.-Soviet agreement to stop arms supplies to the Afghan warring groups, the spokesman said Pakistan welcomes this because it will help in finding a political solution. He reiterated that Pakistan is not supplying arms to the Afghan mojahedin.

The secretary-level talks between Pakistan and India will be held in the second half of this month in Islamabad, during which bilateral relations, Kashmir and boundary issues, as well as the Wular barrage issue, will be discussed, the spokesman added.

Japanese Envoy Denies Attributed Statement

BK0210100591 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 2 Oct 91

[Text] The Japanese ambassador was summoned to the Foreign Ministry in Islamabad yesterday where he was asked about the statement attributed to him during his address to the Lahore Chamber of Commerce on 30 September concerning the political situation in Pakistan. The Japanese ambassador said the attribution was wrong and his statement has been distorted. The Japanese ambassador added that he will take up this matter with the concerned editors.

Later, a press release issued by the Japanese Embassay denied the statement attributed to the ambassador, namely that the Pakistani Government is not strong enough to attract foreign investment. The press release adds that this report is completely different from what the ambassador wanted to tell the audience. In fact, he had said that if Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif is successful in implementing the policy of privatization and industrialization, Pakistan will be quite a different country. He had further stated that the Pakistani Government is pursuing a correct path and its various steps, such as liberalizing foreign exchange controls, are yielding positive results.

Foreign Office Denies Being Blacklisted by Japan

OW0210142491 Tokyo KYODO in English 1402 GMT 2 Oct 91

[Text] Islamabad, Oct. 2 KYODO—The Foreign Office denied Wednesday local news reports that Japan has blacklisted Pakistan for transferring nuclear technology, but confirmed Japan is applying certain conditions in extending aid to eligible countries.

A Foreign Office spokesman said the Japanese conditions, which will not be applied immediately, comprise the position of recipient countries regarding the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, democratic reforms, and the ratio of defense and social sector spending to gross national product.

Pakistan was informed of the conditions when a delegation visited Tokyo last May to prepare for a Japan visit by Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, the spokesman said.

Sharif's trip, originally scheduled for five days in early July, was canceled at the last minute because of unrest and violence in Pakistan.

Local news reports said Tuesday that Japanese Ambassador to Pakistan Kunio Muraoka has said Pakistan has been blacklisted for transferring technology which can be used for a nuclear weapons program.

Muraoka also was quoted as saying Japanese enterprises are reluctant to invest in Pakistan because of the cancellation of Sharif's trip, the kidnapping of three Japanese students in Sindh Province earlier this year, and the withdrawal of the import permit of Indus Motors Co., an affiliate of Japan's Toyota Motor Corp.

A press release issued by the Japanese Embassy Tuesday night said Muraoka was quoted "out of context."

The Pakistani spokesman confirmed that the Japanese ambassador was asked to come to the Foreign Office on Tuesday in connection with the alleged statement. But the spokesman said the matter "stands closed now, as far as we are concerned."

Kanjoo Meets PRC's Qian Qichen in New York

BK0210085291 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 2 Oct 91

[Text] The minister of state for foreign affairs, Mr. Mohammad Siddique Kanjoo, has held talks in New York with the Chinese foreign minister, Mr. Qian

Qichen, on bilateral, regional, and international issues. He briefed him on the situation prevailing in the occupied Kashmir and stressed the need for resolving the Kashmir problem peacefully in accordance with the relevant UN resolutions. Mr. Kanjoo also informed the Chinese foreign minister about the latest developments concerning Afghanistan in the context of Pakistan's efforts for a political settlement of the 13-year-old conflict. Mr. Qian Qichen said his country attaches great importance to further development of its relations with Pakistan.

Unidentified Gunmen Kill Senator Fazle Haq

BK0310100291 Hong Kong AFP in English 0942 GMT 3 Oct 91

[Text] PESHAWAR, Pakistan, Oct 3 (AFP)—Former military governor Lieutenant General Fazle Haq was shot dead when unidentified gunmen ambushed his car here Thursday, officials said.

Gen. Haq, a member of the Pakistan senate, died on the spot while his two guards were seriously wounded, they said.

Police said the attack was mounted around 2.00 p.m. (0900 GMT) in the city's well-to-do district of Defence Colony, where he resided.

The identity of the assailants was not immediately known.

Haq had served as governor of the North West Frontier Province during the 11-year military rule of the late General Mohammed Ziaul Haq.

Pakistani Shiite Moslems blamed him for the August 5, 1988 murder of the minority community's top religious leader, Arif Hussain al-Hussaini, in Peshawar.

He was a member of the ruling Islamic Democratic Alliance (IJI) headed by Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif.

The senator often said he had received threats to his life.

Commentary on Bush's Nuclear Arms Cut Proposals

BK0110125091 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1600 GMT 30 Sep 91

[A.B.S. Jafri commentary]

[Text] President of the United States, Mr. George Bush, has announced a significant reduction in his country's arsenal of medium range nuclear missiles. This would mean the virtual withdrawal of U.S. nuclear missiles from the continent of Europe. At home too, nuclear weapons of similar range and destructive (?length) are to be stored or dismantled. This announcement from Washington is not very surprising, very meaningful though it undoubtedly is. As Mr. Bush himself explained, the Warsaw Pact has crumbled, and with that also the real threat to the security of United States allies on the continent of Europe. Not only has the Warsaw Pact ceased to be, all the European allies of the Soviet Union are now in the fold of West European democracy. The Soviet Union itself is too engrossed in its own internal remodeling to pose any considerable military threat to anyone. But (?it is wrong) to say the USSR has all of a sudden become a nonentity in the nuclear arena. Moscow still possesses formidable nuclear capability in terms of nuclear arithmetic. About that, President Bush proposes to involve Soviet leadership in a direct dialogue.

The developments were very much in the cards ever since Mikhail Gorbachev launched his glasnost followed by rather unsettling perestroika. But the failed coup by the hardliners last month accelerated the pace of change in the Soviet Union. Mr. Bush exudes a visible element of optimism and satisfaction when he says the world has changed at a fantastic pace. It must certainly have. But not all the world, and this aspect has to be noted very carefully. While nuclear disarmament as among the pioneering nuclear powers—that is the five members of the original nuclear club founders—have made epoch-making progress, elsewhere in the world nuclear weapons remain an undeniable reality. The number of nuclear powers in the world today can be put in the vicinity of a score. There are some experts who could not hesitate to declare even Pakistan a nuclear power which is, of course, not meant to be a compliment but an accusation, and it is also a case of stretching the point more than and even too much. Along with that, there is no denying that nuclear [words indistinct] between the United States and the Soviet Union does not come anywhere near the dawn of a nuclear-free world. Nuclear weapons would continue to be in place in several exceedingly sensitive parts of our planet.

Welcome as President Bush's initiative certainly is, small powers with nuclear capability, as (?alleged) by those neighbors possessing nuclear superiority, are unlikely to be closely comforted by it. There is, no doubt, reason to hope that President Bush would not fail to see that reduction called for a follow up on a universal scale. In the heart of the Arab Middle East, there exists a nuclear power notorious for its bloodthirsty record and insatiable appetite for war and violence. In Central America, there are nuclear powers. Although South Africa has relented on its racist tendencies, there is no denying that it is a relatively formidable nuclear power.

Nearer home, the people of Pakistan have their gigantic neighbor with, undoubtedly, nuclear capability. Western sources put India's nuclear arsenal at some 200 bombs and warheads. These are, of course, conjectural figures and could be off the mark, even vague. But that is not the real point. What needs to be noted by President Bush and his administration, more than anybody else in the world today, is the fact that there is unease in the South Asian subcontinent inhabited by over a billion human beings.

Pakistan has put before the world a nuclear disarmament formula for the whole of the world with (?effect) naturally on Asia and South Asia. It calls for open-hearted and sincere negotiations to effect nuclear disarmament with representatives of the five most directly concerned states around the table, namely Pakistan, India, China, the Soviet Union, and, of course, the United States. Pakistan has made it known to the world from the outset that it would be delighted to sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty the moment India decided to do likewise. Pakistan would hope, as conveyed by Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif in a message to the U.S. President, that Mr. Bush should now play his undoubtedly influential part in this context in South Asia also.

Paper on Bush Nuclear Plan

BK0210104691 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 2 Oct 91 p 6

[By Shireen M. Mazari]

[Text] Since the sixties, with the spread of nuclear technology, the Americans have attempted to institute nuclear non-proliferation while ensuring the preservation of their nuclear-weapons advantage globally and bilaterally against the Soviet Union. Hence, one saw the evolution of the multilateral Partial Test Ban Treaty (PTBT) and the Non-Proliferation Treaty, the bilateral Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty, the Vladivostok Protocols, the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty, and the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START) to name just a few.

The latest Bush pronouncements also fit into this framework, with the Americans well aware of the fact that any hint of nuclear arms cut disarmament will be met with global approval. Of course, the latest pronouncements are also a means of legitimising the new world order by attempting to cover up the military foundations of this order. Even this would be tolerable if the proposed actions were to truly lead to nuclear disarmament, rather than merely being one more phase in the number-crunching game of arms control and disarmament that has underlain so many existing international arrangements.

In order to understand the reality beyond the latest Bush plan, one must move past the propaganda and the media blitz accompanying the pronouncement as well as the welcome it received at the declaratory level from world leaders.

I. According to the Bush plan, the U.S. will bring home all of its ground-based short-range missiles. This is something the Americans would have needed to do in any case, since these were primarily meant for use in a European theatre of operations. With the changes in Eastern Europe, and specifically with the reunification of Germany, it made no economic and military sense to keep these weapons. So there is nothing altruistic in this objective which is part of cost-efficiency and defence rationalisation rather than a major arms reduction move.

II. Again, according to the same plan, the U.S. will remove all tactical nuclear weapons, including nuclear cruise missiles, from surface ships and attack submarines as well as nuclear weapons associated with land-based naval aircraft. While a number of these weapons will be destroyed, some will be stored.

At first glance, this would seem to be a move towards genuine nuclear disarmament. It is still not clear how a weapon, however, especially one that is sea-based (hence mobile in a way) can be definitively characterised as tactical or strategic. A lot depends upon the positioning of the weapon—that is, from where it will be launched.

The fact that the Americans intend to keep their strategic sea-based systems shows their desire to maintain a substantive nuclear capability. As for the claim that the U.S. will remove nuclear weapons associated with land-based naval aircraft, again this leaves the strategic nuclear weapons on board the sea-based naval aircraft. Finally, the idea that only some of these weapons will be destroyed means that the rest can be brought out of storage whenever the Americans choose.

III. The Bush plan also claims that American strategic bombers will be removed from day-to-day alert status and will return their weapons to storage. This is perhaps the most cosmetic of the Bush plan components, since the existence of these weapons will not be undermined. Removing them from this alert status only signifies that the Americans do not feel a security compulsion to maintain this high level of readiness which involves heavy costs.

IV. As for the point about the removal from alert status of all U.S. intercontinental ballistic weapons already scheduled to be deactivated under the START—START still left 9,000 strategic warheads each permissible for retention by the U.S. and the Soviet Union—all that this will do is lessen the time-frame for implementation of the provisions of the treaty.

V. The decision to scrap plans to put the 10-warhead MX missile on rail cars and to develop a mobile launcher for the single-warhead "midget-man" missile, as well as to cancel the nuclear short-range attack missile, merely reflects economic constraints. No doubt, the Americans have decided to channel funds into the Strategic Defence Initiative which has not been totally abandoned. As it is, the Americans themselves have been debating the whole issue of the appropriate basing-mode for the MX missile, and short-range attack missiles also make little sense in the changed security environment, especially in Europe.

For conflicts like the Gulf, modern, conventional PGMs (precision-guided munitions) are now acknowledged as being extremely efficient and cost-effective. Thus, the Americans can play the role of regional overlords without the need for short-range nuclear weapons.

VI. Perhaps the most significant aspect of the Bush plan is the decision to create a new U.S. strategic command, designed to improve command and control of all U.S. strategic and nuclear forces. The criticality of strengthening and streamlining the C3I (Command, Control, Communication & Intelligence) has been a major preoccupation of American strategists for over two decades. The latest pronouncement in this regard clearly reflects the American belief in the continuing viability of nuclear weapons and the focus seems to be on rationalising a combined conventional-nuclear military doctrine keeping in mind the new global imperatives of American policy.

In summation, therefore, the Bush plan has little to offer in concrete terms of nuclear disarmament. The real purpose seems to be to try and evolve a new means of pressurising potential nuclear-weapons states into renouncing their nuclear capabilities. Hence, the emphasis in the plan on short-range and tactical nuclear weapons—the sort these states would most likely be in a position to produce. Unlike the use of coercive means like the Pressler Amendment, the Bush plan has the immense propaganda value of seeming to adopt a high moral ground on the issue of nuclear weapons.

Of course, by putting forth this plan, the Americans are also distracting attention away from efforts to eliminate conventional weapons of mass destruction—including chemical and biological weapons. Surely, a unilateral U.S. move in this field would have been a welcome step.

Interestingly enough, while the French and British have ostensibly welcomed the Bush plan, they have not come up with plans to destroy their own nuclear arsenals—except those that have become redundant. It seems as if they have managed to retain their realpolitik approach while lending declaratory support to their ally—or perhaps, they understand the Machiavellian nature of the Bush plan. Isn't it about time countries like Pakistan also understood this?

Sri Lanka

Opposition Supports Ruling Party Dissidents

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[Text] Colombo, Oct 3 (AFP)—Sri Lanka's opposition Thursday announced support for ruling party dissidents to form a government and expressed confidence that President Ranasinghe Premadasa's regime would collapse next week.

Key opposition parties in a joint statement here said they would reject an invitation to set up a new government if the administration is defeated in next week's opposition-sponsored no-confidence vote in parliament.

"When the present government is defeated we shall not accept an invitation to form a government. We pledge to support elements (within the regime) fighting for a restoration of parliamentary democracy," the statement said.

The statement came as government spokesman Ranil Wickremesinghe told reporters Thursday that they were keen to debate the motion immediately after parliament opens Tuesday.

No exact date, however, has been fixed for the debate.

"We don't want the no-confidence resolution hanging over our heads. We want to get it over with as soon as possible. In any event, we will take it up during the first week of parliament," Wickremesinghe said.

He said they were confident of defeating the resolution, which is believed to have the backing of ruling party dissidents leading a campaign to scrap the executive presidency and restore British-style parliamentary democracy.

The government is facing the no-confidence vote on charges of arming the Tamil guerrilla group, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), which is currently battling security forces.

The resolution came a month after a faction of the ruling United National Party (UNP) and the opposition submitted a resolution to impeach Premadasa, effectively taking away his powers to dissolve parliament.

Premadasa is charged with a wide range of misdemeanors including treason, abuse of power, corruption, covering up of murders and arming the LTTE during secret peace talks which ended in June last year.

The no-confidence vote was expected to be a close fight as the UNP has already lost 11 out of its 125 members to the opposition. At least 36 others still within the UNP have signed the charge sheet against Premadasa.